

Living Faith at Work

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(Left click mouse to start presentation. Some advances within slides come at timed intervals. Left click to advance from slide to slide.)

Living Faith at Work

- What view of the life of the spirit, the life of faith, do we hold?
- Is it Sunday **vs.** Monday?
OR
- Is it Sunday **AND** Monday?

Living Faith at Work

Is the parish our
world or is the world
our parish?

Living Faith at Work

- I think a hint as to the answer is written in St. John's Gospel, 3:16.
- Fill in the blank.
 - **For God so loved the _____**

Where are we?

- Pastors & pastoral staff frequently have found themselves seeing their parishioners only in these ways:
 - Prospective volunteers for parish ministries.
 - Contributors of time, talent, and money to parish.
 - Potential participants in liturgy and devotional activities such as perpetual adoration.

Where are we?

- Vatican II put forward a different view:
 - The laity, by their very vocation, seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and by ordering them to the plan of God. They live in the world, that is, in each and in all the secular professions and occupations...They can work for the sanctification of the world from within, in the manner of leaven. (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church).

When asked, the laity said:

The major teaching of the Second Vatican Council regarding the role of the laity was to emphasize that lay people could now get involved in ministries at church once reserved only to the priest and nuns - such as becoming a Eucharistic minister, teaching religious education, and exercising leadership through parish pastoral councils and commissions. [This is belief is not true.]

When asked, the laity said:

- An active Catholic lay person is someone who spends a great deal of time in church sponsored activities and ministries.
- I often find it difficult to determine how to apply certain gospel ideals to my daily life activities, including work.

Laity Attitude about Holiness

- “Christians are not very conscious that their workday life is a primary expression of their response to God, that work itself puts holiness into life.” Droel, *Full-Time Christians*, 2002, p. 7

Sunday and the Work Week

- What we have learned from the laity...
- People have difficulty making connections between Sunday and Monday-Saturday.
 - They are not thinking about work on Sunday.
 - They are not thinking about Faith on Monday.

How do those in parish ministry see the people?

- How much of our view is, “What can they do for the parish?”
- How much of our view is, “What can we do for their everyday lives?”

What difference does our view make?

- The people of the parish see themselves the way we see them.
- Our view becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

What can we do for their everyday lives?”

- Responding to this question calls for a paradigm shift for many in adult faith formation.
- If we did make the shift, what would be signs or indicators that we were successful in affecting the everyday lives of our people?
- Is that something we want? I do.

Vatican II and Effects

- The role of the laity is supposed to be the transformation the world.
- Role of laity has become to do the work that priests and nuns used to do in the church.
- There is a gap between what we espouse and reality.

Work and People's Lives

- Work is the new neighborhood
- Work, particularly in the American culture, is at the underlying core purpose of life.
- Work is HUGE in people's lives.

WORK: What are your thoughts?

- **Faith Based Work**

- What does this mean to you?
- How is it done?
- Why is it done?
- What if one's everyday work were faith-based—what would life be like?
- How would it be different?
- What first step can you take to make your work faith based?

WORK of Religious Educators

- How do we help our learners/clients to make connections between faith and life?
- What do we need to know about spirituality and the workplace?
- What do we need to know and apply about those whom we seek to form in faith?
- How would our practice be different if we knew these things?

We Seek to Teach People

- We humans are different. We have different learning styles. There are differences in what brings each of us to learn something, to change what we do, to change how we live our lives.
- While most of us can learn in all styles, we each have our primary and preferred learning style.

We Seek to Teach People

- As people who seek to help adults develop, that is, to learn and change, we need to provide learning experiences in the four major learning styles.
- These styles can be characterized by these 4 questions:
- Why? What? How? What if?

We Seek to Teach People

- Approximate percentage of the population with each preferred/primary learning style:
- **35%** Need rationale (Why learn this?)
- **22%** Need delineation (What is it I am going to learn?)
- **18%** Need direction (Tell me how this is supposed to work.)
- **25%** Need to experiment (What if?)

Supporting faith in daily life

- What are we doing that responds to those who are motivated by:
 - WHY? Need for rationale
 - WHAT? Need for delineation
 - HOW TO? Need for direction
 - WHAT IF? Need to experiment

FAITH & WORK : Reflection

- What are values (life-guiding principles) that come with a belief in Jesus Christ?
- Included would be:
 - Love
 - Respect
 - Community
 - Responsibility
 - Honesty

FAITH & WORK : Reflection

- Why should you put **LOVE** into practice in your workplace?
- Why should you practice **RESPECT**?
- Why should you build **COMMUNITY** in your workplace?
- Why should you put take **RESPONSIBILITY**?
- Why should you put **HONESTY** into practice in your workplace?

FAITH & WORK : Reflection

- What would the practice of **LOVE** look like in your workplace?
- What would **RESPECT** look like?
- What would building **COMMUNITY** look like in your workplace?
- What would taking **RESPONSIBILITY** look like?
- What would the practice of **HONESTY** look like in your workplace?

FAITH & WORK : Reflection

- How can you put **LOVE** into practice in your workplace?
- How can you put **RESPECT** into practice?
- How can you build **COMMUNITY** in your workplace?
- How can you put taking **RESPONSIBILITY** into practice?
- How can you put **HONESTY** into practice in your workplace?

FAITH & WORK : Reflection

- What if **LOVE** were a common practice in your workplace?
- What if **RESPECT** was common?
- What if a sense of **COMMUNITY** pervaded your workplace?
- What if taking **RESPONSIBILITY** was a common practice?
- What if **HONESTY** was the common practice in your workplace?

FAITH & WORK : Action

- What small, first step can you take to bring more **LOVE** into your workplace?
 - More **RESPECT**?
 - More **COMMUNITY** building?
 - More **RESPONSIBILITY**?
 - More **HONESTY**?
- Will you do it? Will you do it tomorrow?

Do we have gaps?

- RCIA—is there any session on work life?
- Stewardship—is it focused on Time, Talent, and Treasure for the church alone? What about for the community?
- Spiritual life—do we make any distinction between monastic and lay spirituality?
- Training for ministries—do we train for ministries external to the parish?

Spirituality in Your Parish

- What would you say is the typical view of spirituality projected from the pulpit?
- What would you say is the typical view of spirituality held by the people in the pews?

Spirituality

- “Spirituality is the process of living out a set of deeply held personal values, of honoring forces or a presence greater than ourselves. It expresses our desire to find meaning in, and to treat as an offering, what we do.... There is a longing in each of us to invest our energy in things that matter.” Peter Block as quoted in Nash & McLennan, p. 17

Spirituality

- “The spiritual life is not a life of quiet withdrawal, a hothouse growth of artificial ascetic practices... It is in the ordinary duties and labors of life that the Christian can and should develop spiritual union with God.” Thomas Merton as quoted in Droel, 2002, p.19

Spirituality

- Holiness is not limited to the sanctuary or to moments of private prayer; it is a call to direct our whole heart and life toward God and according to God's plan for the world. For the laity holiness is achieved in the midst of the world, in family, in community, in friendships, in work, in leisure, in citizenship..." US Catholic Bishops in Economic Justice for All

Living Faith at Work

- Not a program but a resource
- Practical stuff—application of faith to work life
- Pays attention to people's learning styles
- Focused on the vocation of the laity
- Needs your contributions

Living Faith at Work Resources

- For parish leaders on the website:
www.livingfaithatwork.org
 - Infusion of a Life and Work Centered Spirituality into Parish Life: A Self Analysis Instrument
 - A Catholic Survey: Guide for Discussion
 - Infusion of Living Faith at Work into Parish Life: One Parish's Methods

Living Faith at Work Resources

- For individuals on the website www.livingfaithatwork.org
 - A Catholic Vision of Work
 - Practical Tips for Being a Catholic at Work
 - Self Inventory:
A Deeper Look at Who I Am and How I Serve

Living Faith at Work Resources

- **Faith Alive!**

- *A Catholic Christian retreat to strengthen the connection between our Faith and our daily life and work.*

- **Faith Alive! for the Generations**

- *An 8 session series designed for multi-generational groups. It seeks to strengthen the connection between the generations as well as between our Faith and our daily lives.*

Living Faith at Work Resources

- **Faith Alive! for Adult Faith Formation**
 - *A 6 session series designed to help adults grow in faithful spirituality and in applying their faith values to their daily lives.*

References

- Droel, William. *Full Time Christians: The Real Challenge from Vatican II*. Mystic, CN: Twenty-Third Publications, 2002.
- Nash, Laura, & McLennan, Scotty. *Church on Sunday, Work on Monday: The Challenge of Fusing Christian Values with Business Life*. San Francisco: Jossey-bass, 2001.

Thank you for your time and attention to this initiative.