

Institute Voluntas Dei – October 2017 Lesson Plan

Michael Cronin – City of Lakes

It is Possible to Get along with Others!...Expression of Past Feelings, Enduring Negative Sentiments, To Improve Communications, To Grow and Not Take Things Personally.

Opening Prayer

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbor, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (Opening Prayer, 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Introduction

As I have been reading this book, I have come to the realization that Fr. Parent wrote this for me! In addition, I had an impulse to make a 1000 copies and send to my parishioners! I resisted.

Fr. Parent wrote this for all of us and for anyone else who would wish to grow in love and self-understanding. As he said in the beginning, “this book has no other purpose than to help you to achieve your own self-revelation and to awaken you to your capacity to love. To love, is it not to be able to put others at ease? To love is to step into the recess of another person’s garden; to love is to savor peace; it is a radiation of joy, and of kindness; to love is to anoint one’s heart with gentleness, patience, and effective mastery of oneself.”

In my own thinking, we ought not take our self-revelation and our capacity to love for granted, because we are all gifts of a loving and merciful and gracious God.

Reflection and Sharing

- 1) Given Fr. Parent’s express purpose in writing this book, maybe a good question for each of us would be: “How have we--at times--taken the gift of ourselves and the gift of our capacity to love for granted?”
- 2) Since team life is integral and essential to our life as members of the Voluntas community, this “human relations” book has much to offer our team. What might be some of the ways our team can grow?

Expression of Feelings

“One ought, then, to attempt to assess the extent of the trust that one could place in those who form part of the group or the team. There is, indeed, a team spirit when these matters can be freely discussed,” (21). **In what ways do we “trust” the team?**

Enduring Negative Sentiments

“Each individual in a team is different from the other...the team ought to be a refuge where its members are permitted to be themselves, surely a bit different from one another, without which differences the cohesiveness of the team would be merely superficial, limiting itself to giving advice, to imposing sanctions, warnings and chastisements” (25-28). **Are team members able to be their authentic selves?**

To Improve Communications

“Very simply and with courage we have to adapt, to learn to express ourselves, to accept ourselves, to incorporate ourselves into the group, to be silent, to listen, to share, to respect different points of view” (30). **How readily are we willing to do this as part of the team? Is there room for continued growth?**

To Grow, and Not Take Things Personally

The Sunday gospel on the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time was a reminder that life truly isn't fair, nor is it convenient. Still, as Fr. Parent suggests, “we have to accept ourselves as sensitive beings, easily wounded, particularly on certain days. If we recognize our faults, we will have the courage, after our lapses, to ask forgiveness instead of blaming others for our own incapacity to endure whatever may befall us” (33). **In what ways are we as individuals and as a team courageous?**

Closing Prayer

Almighty ever-living God, increase our faith, hope, and charity, and make us love what you command, so that we may merit what you promise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen. (Opening Prayer, 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time)