

VOCATION AND THE COMMON GOOD

Vocation Is Mission Lecture Series

The Washington Institute

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"...A cobbler, a smith, a farmer, each has the work and office of his trade, and yet they are all alike consecrated priests and bishops, and every one by means of his own work or office must benefit and serve every other, that in this way many kinds of work may be done for the bodily and spiritual welfare of the community, even as all the members of the body serve one another..."

Martin Luther, German pastor, 16th-century

"[Saints] do not do anything extraordinary, they simply carry out their ordinary activities... The worker will become a saint in the workplace, the soldier will become a saint in the army, the patient will become a saint in the hospital, the student will become a saint through studies, the priest will become a saint through his ministry as a priest, and a public servant will become a saint in the government office. Every step on the road to holiness is a step of sacrifice in the performance of one's mission in life."

Francis Van Thuan, Vietnamese pastor, 20th-century

Introduction-- "Thank you for electricity"

- Letter from Sam Owen, yesterday
- "They need an electrical grid system that works!"

Jonathan's comment when he returned from Kenya

1. The Common Good

- And the commonwealth of Virginia
- Habits of Heart thesis and conclusion, re. Tocqueville

Me/we dynamic in the human heart, and American life

The Lake Accotink Trail

- Murdock Trust

2. Vocation and the Common Good

- Laity Lodge conversation and my grandfather and father
re. vocations for the common good
- Seek the flourishing of the city, re. Jeremiah and Daniel

For when it flourishes, you will flourish

- Walt Turner on cows, a community, and the common good
- From Detroit to Wall Street, short-sighted selfishness never works for the common good

Wendell Berry's Kennedy Center lecture, "It All Turns On Affection"

And his question to the Mars execs

3. Common Grace for the Common Good... from cooking pots to rock extravanganzas

- The importance of a theology of common grace

Zecharia's prophesy about "the day of the Lord"

Kuyper's distinction between saving grace and common grace—and why it matters to all of us

- Harrison Higgins of Richmond, and sacramental labor
- U2's 360 tour, and the Rose Bowl concert

And the prayer for everything, from trucks to cables to guitars to people

- Simone Weil on sacramental life and learning, of "paying attention"

Conclusion-- "Only Connect"

- And my grandfather's and father's prayers

On earth as it is in heaven....

Further Up and Further In

Abraham Kuyper, *Lectures on Calvinism, To Be Near Unto God*

Simone Weil, "On the Right Use of School Studies with a View to the Love of God"

Wendell Berry, *That Distant Land, A Timbered Choir, Life is a Miracle*

Alexander Schmemmann, *For the Life of the World*

U2, 360 Tour dvd