

The Workplace as School for Spiritual Formation
Rev. Bill Haley May 8, 2013

“Follow Me” to “Abide in Me”

Galatians 2.20 “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me.”

Spiritual Formation: “The process of being conformed to the image of Christ for the sake of others” (Robert Mulholland)

Our workplace as a school for spiritual formation....

Priests and bishops are supposed to employ God’s Word and the sacraments. That is their work and office...Each shoemaker, smith, farmer and the like has his own office and trade, and nevertheless all are equally consecrated priests and bishops. And each with his office or work are is to provide aid and service to the others. (Martin Luther)

[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)

1. Our school of Love

2. Working as unto the Lord (Colossians 3.22-24)

From Dorothy Sayers, Why Work? “The only Christian work is good work done well. Let the Church see to it that the workers are Christian people and do their work well, as to God: then all the work will be Christian work, whether it is church embroidery, or sewage farming...The Church's approach to an intelligent carpenter is usually confined to exhorting him not to be drunk and disorderly in his leisure hours, and to come to church on Sundays. What the Church should be telling him is this: that the very first demand that his religion makes upon him is that he should make good tables. Church by all means, and decent forms of amusement, certainly—but what use is all that if in the very center of his life and occupation he is insulting God with bad carpentry? No crooked table legs or ill-fitting drawers ever came out of the carpenter's shop at Nazareth. Nor, if they did, could anyone believe that they were made by the same hand that made Heaven and earth.”

3. Work as our worship-Brother Lawrence

4. Receiving the day's work as God's will for us this day

5. Relying on God for wisdom in the details of our work (Luke 5.1-11)

6. Prayer before our work and as we work, turning our tasks into prayers

7. Paying attention to our discontent...a goad to discernment...