

## THE GIFT OF PASTORAL MANAGEMENT

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It is Lent, which helps us focus and remember that we are on a journey and always learning from our mistakes which makes us better for the future. This desire to improve and humble disposition allows one better manage the gifts and talents that have been given. This skill of management takes time and discipline to achieve and develop. A pastor is entrusted with a great task and needs to pray, practice and develop the gift of Pastoral Management. "Management is skill and abilities to enable resources to produce worthwhile results". It involves process, which is directed towards one result."<sup>1</sup> If a new pastor is appointed to a parish that was not making the best use of their resources he will have to begin to build from the ground up and renew many areas of the parish to assure that the fruit that it is producing is the good fruit that the Lord intends.



To the new pastor I would encourage him to first ask the finance person of the parish if there is one, to give him a full account of the expenses of the parish and how much is coming in and going. From that point when all the information is gathered and analyzed what is important and what can be minimized for a time, the new pastor will be better able to decide the use of the material and spiritual needs of the parish. Including the Parish family in the workings and development of the parish can help its members take ownership of their role in the Body of Christ, as well as save some money while imploring the gifts that the Lord has bestowed on others.

Among the needs of the parish there will be spiritual, material, and physical. It is always important to recognize the dignity of each person that makes up the family of Jesus and to put the needs of the people first. While not turning the parish setting into a fortune 500 company there is still room to improve on the practices of the parish to assure good stewardship with what has been given by the Lord. While many think it impossible today it is important to remember that, "The ministry and management can coexist in the work of the Church. But they are not, and will never be, in position of equal partnership. The ministry must always be primary while the management is secondary."<sup>2</sup>

It has become a trend while working in ministry to assume that you will not be paid well; either because the ministry cannot afford it or trusting that the Lord will provide, and not recognizing the need for sustainable income. Not being paid well sometimes results in not being able to afford the proper training for the position. This can hurt the ministry in the long run and in its short term effects. This is why the Pastor needs to be well trained in management and entrust areas of the parish to others who will manage it well using the gifts and resources that the Lord has provided for that Parish.

Overall the management of a Parish is a large and important task that demands an excellence in training and preparation to encourage the ministry.

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<sup>1</sup> Anaeto, Dominic, Fr, PS 805, Fundamentals of Pastoral Theology, class notes Week 9- Lesson 9: Pastoral Management and Skill, Spring 2014

<sup>1</sup> Ibid

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