

SOCIETY OF APOSTOLIC EXECUTIVES

MARCH 10, 2009

The first meeting of the Society of Apostolic Executives was brought to order at 7:15 A.M. by Tom Markel with an opening prayer.

Spiritual Reflection

Bishop Dominic Luong introduced Stephen J. Binz' book "CONVERSING *with* GOD *in* SCRIPTURE and shared his thoughts on Ezekiel 37: 1-14.

Stephen Binz' book is a contemporary, concise and lucid approach to the ancient spiritual practice of *lectio divina*. His description of the lectio divina is clear, well expressed and designed for the laity. The apostolic executive through the lectio divina can experience the inspired word as God intended it. It allows the word of God to penetrate our hearts and leads us to grow in an intimate relationship with him. In lectio divina we trust that sacred text will not only inform us but transform us and through us the workplace. "May this book be for you the invitation to a lifelong adventure in Christ," a quote from the Preface of Stephen Binz' book.

We were inspired by Bishop Dominic's reading and reflection of Ezekiel's famous "Vision of the Dry Bones." Using Stephen Binz' approach to the lectio divina to read and reflect on these verses, this apostolic executive was particularly moved and challenged by verses 4, 5, and 10. "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. . . . So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army."

The Society of Apostolic Executives' Journey

Tom Markel reviewed the Society of Apostolic Executives' mission of "Educate, guide and inspire business owners and executives to live the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit in their business decisions" and its objective of "Justice, Peace & Joy in the Workplace." Utilizing a ten page power point, which was distributed and is on the Apostolic Executive web site, Tom shared the journey which led to the formation of the Society of Apostolic Executives.

Future Meetings

Breakfast meetings provide a forum wherein business executives can discuss Christian approaches to resolving work place issues. The meetings, as reviewed by Joe Silvano, will include spiritual guidance and reflection on one such issue and the review of a book wherein a Christian executive, theologian, or

professor addresses Christian approaches to resolving the issue. The meeting will then break into smaller groups for a discussion and sharing of work place experiences in confronting the issue.

The breakout groups at this first meeting were tasked with identifying business issues they would like to address at future meetings. The following issues were identified in the breakout sessions:

How do we deal with cut throat competition?

How do we pay employees a "living" or "family" wage in these difficult economic times?

Are we responsible for helping employees integrate work, personal, and family lives?

How do we increase spirituality in the workplace without offending employees of different religious backgrounds?

How do we handle competition in the workplace? Internal conflicts? Personal attacks?

How do we handle lay-offs in light of Catholic social teaching?

How do we deal with the "star performer" whose style intimates, demeans or humiliates other workers or subordinates?

How do we deal with "morality creep?"

As additional issues are identified, they will be added to the list.

The meeting concluded at 8:30 A.M. with a closing prayer.