



Bishop Dominic with attendees of our 11/24/09 meeting at the Pacific Club

November 24, 2009 Agenda:

5:00 PM. **Mass**

Celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop of Orange
Most Rev. Dominic M. Luong

5:30 PM. **The Apostolic Executive's Prayer**

Come Holy Spirit, ignite in us **FAITH** in our minds, **HOPE** on our lips, and **LOVE** in our hearts.

Transform us into Apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. Inspire us with your **WISDOM** and **COURAGE**, to seek **KNOWLEDGE**, **UNDERSTANDING**, and **COUNSEL**, and to pray for **PIETY** and **FEAR of the LORD**.

Engrave all our decisions and actions with your **Fruits of GOODNESS, GENEROSITY, GENTLENESS, KINDNESS, PATIENCE** and **SELF-CONTROL**. Guide us to bring **JUSTICE, PEACE**, and **JOY** into our workplace. Amen

5:35 PM. **Introductions**

5:40 PM. **Topics for Discussion and Reflection:**

Ethics in Business -- The Catholic Way

Christian Ethics in Business -- An Oxymoron?

Ethics, "Webster's Dictionary": "the discipline dealing with what is good and bad and with moral duty and obligation."

"Christian ethics is the application of Christian values to the decision-making process. When we behave in a manner consistent with God's character, we act ethically." "Just Business: Christian Ethics for the Marketplace," by Alexander Hill.

Ethical Challenges in the Workplace (Courtesy of “Just Business”)

Your company has a minor chemical leak which will cause no long-term risks to the community. As the result of a disgruntled former employee informing the media of the leak, you are asked whether the leak exists. Admitting the leak could result in an irrational panic causing temporary closure of the company which would result in lost jobs and revenue. On the other hand, you can deny the existence of the leak because you are confident you can repair the leak and cover up any traces of the leak.

ACME Corporation manufactures children’s clothing. Heeding the request of many of its retail store customers, ACME has begun to “pre-ticket” many of its product lines. This practice includes placing tags on items at inflated “suggested retail prices.” In this manner consumers are led to believe that retailers are selling at cut-rate prices when they are not.

Your company manufactures and sells widgets. The widgets are an integral part of your client’s product. During negotiations with your client, you promise to deliver a thousand widgets by March 1. You know you will be unable to deliver the widgets prior to May 1, but do not tell the client for fear of losing its business. You have calculated that your company can easily absorb the late delivery charges written into the contract.

You receive a call from a former employee who asks you to complete an evaluation form for a prospective employer. While his performance was average at best, you know if you evaluate him at that level he has little chance of getting the job. Rationalizing that other supervisors regularly inflate evaluations, you rank him higher than his performance merits.

The “United States Catholic Catechism for Adults” refers us to a Moral Life and Mortality in its discussion of ethics: and defines it as the manner of life and action formed according to the teaching laid down by Christ Jesus and authoritatively interpreted by the Church (Pages 311-12, 314-15, and 520). The Apostolic Executive faced with these ethical challenges can find further guidance in the Church’s teaching on moral acts; “Catechism of the Catholic Church” paragraphs 1750-1761 The Morality of Human Acts and paragraphs 1776-1802 Moral Conscience.

Every moral (ethical) act requires the following three elements be considered and resolved together (Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1760):

1. The objective act (what we do).
--some acts are always wrong because they go against a fundamental or basic human good.
2. The subjective goal or intention (why we do the act).
--the goal, end, or intention is the subjective element of the act. If we are motivated to do something by a bad intention, even something that is objectively good, our action is unethical. It must also be recognized that a good intention cannot make a bad action ethical.
3. The concrete situation or circumstances in which we perform the act (where, when, how, with whom, the consequences, etc.).
--circumstances of themselves cannot change the ethical quality of acts but they can diminish or increase the perpetrator’s responsibility.

THERE IS NO RIGHT WAY TO DO THE WRONG THING. “One may not do evil so that good may result from it” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1756).

6:50 PM. **A Book Review**

Father William J. Byron, “The Power of Principles: Ethics for the New Corporate Culture,” published by Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY 2006. Fr. Byron is a Jesuit priest and economist. He teaches corporate responsibility at Sellinger School of Business and Management, Loyola College of Maryland, and has served as distinguished professor of the practice of ethics in the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University.

Through concrete examples drawn from many levels of corporate and business life, Fr. Byron commends ten “old” principles to the minds and consciences of those who are the decision-makers in the American business system. The ten classical ethical principles identified by Fr. Byron are:

First, the Principle of Integrity.

Second, the Principle of Veracity.

Third, the Principle of Fairness.

Fourth, the Principle of Human Dignity.

Fifth, the Principle of Participation.

Sixth, the Principle of Commitment.

Seventh, the Principle of Social Responsibility.

Eighth, the Principle of Common Good.

Ninth, the Principle of Subsidiarity.

Tenth, the Ethical Principle of Love.

“ . . . bear in mind that although principles can be neglected, they, unlike laws cannot be broken. They are always there, waiting to be applied, although they can be permitted to lie dormant. Principles have no loopholes.” Fr. Byron

Go to our web-site apostolicexecutives.com for a complete review of this MUST HAVE two hundred and thirty-five page book. The book is available at Paulist Press Book Center, 801 Baker Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92626.

6:55 PM. **Closing Prayer**