

The Society of Apostolic Executives
October 27, 2009 Meeting
At the Home of Mr. Lang Pham
Meeting Topic: Family in the Business – A Cross or Blessing



Bishop Dominic with attendees of our 10/27/09 meeting

Meeting Summary:

The following was written by one of the meeting attendees, Betty Winkler.

Bishop Dominic opened the meeting with a beautiful Mass and concluded with remarks about the Anglican request to join our Church. Some of the issues to be resolved are ordination of female priests and attitudes regarding homosexual orientation in their priesthood. Years of preparation may be required before the final reconciliation. Perhaps the conversion of Tony Blair influenced by his devout Catholic wife and her charity work provides a path for discussion. Blair commented that the Catholic organizations seem to provide the best platform for service to those in poverty.

In the following paragraphs, several members spoke of their personal experiences. To maintain confidentiality, speakers are identified with Roman numerals.

I. As a man and the head of the family I ask, "What do we really want?" And the answer: "A happy family." The success and the money have no value if the family is not a success. After the glamour of the courtship and the marriage, we settle in and start with the birth of the children, then their schooling and we are involved but it is easy to choose activities that separate you. I look at older couples and the best hold hands and are life-long friends. I want my wife and I to be happy together and avoid conflict. Adam was lonely, God gave him Eve. Does the problem start from there? I work long hours and sometimes eat alone... my role is to earn the money, her role to manage the family. And she seeks women friends to share good and bad. We need to create together, stay together.

II. My wife started in our business in the back room doing the accounting and taking care of the licenses and other systems. I am free to be creative and run the business. It works for us now.

III. When both are in the business, there will be conflict and it is essential that you forgive one another.

IV. I was a whistle blower in my last job and I lost my wife. Sometimes spouses have mixed matches and expectations are not the same. I need to explain and educate in my present business. Our challenges are meeting payroll and managing cash flow, but we look forward to better times.

V. I was owner and inventor of a software company. My wife was a Blessing but at times a Cross too. I traveled a lot. Now we are in the restaurant business and she is in charge and I stay in my court. I have learned to Adjust and Adapt. My former employer, Ross Perot said, "If you have the passion the money will come."

VI. My wife worked in a dental office before she came into our business. Our customers like her very much because she is so good with people. But now she knows everything, or she thinks she does, and she has ideas and wants to change things, and we have troubles.

VII. When the business has financial difficulties, the wife's opinion of the husband diminishes and this creates a chasm between the couple. There is a term: "walk-away wife". I am fearful.

Bishop Dominic suggested that compromise is required. It is better to yield for Harmony and Peace.