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Volume 33, #9

May 2018

AN ORDERLY MIND

Royal Bank of Canada

“What Can a Person Do?” Vol. 56, #12

“What one can do is governed by an orderly mind that appraises the possibilities, analyzes the difficulties, and controls the execution. One must be a dreamer to think of the destination, a planner to map out a path and a drummer to set the marching time.”



“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.”

HAPPINESS OF LIFE

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

“The happiness of life is made up of minute fractions – the little, soon-forgotten charities of a kiss or a smile, a kind look or heartfelt compliment.”

READ THE GOSPEL

James F. Colaianni

“I wonder what would happen if we all agreed to read one of the Gospels until we came to a place that told us to do something, and then we went out to do it!”

NATURE OF CHOICE

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

“Every choice is a renunciation. Aquinas said that and it helps explain why we struggle so painfully to make clear choices. We want the right things, but we want other things too.

PRAISE & COACHING

Kouzes & Posner

The Leadership Challenge, p. 248

“Praise and coaching are significant forms of recognition. For example, few managers make enough use of one very powerful but terribly inexpensive two-word reward of *thank you*. Personal congratulations rank at the top of the most powerful non-financial motivators identified by employees. There are few, if any, more basic needs than to be noticed, recognized, and appreciated for our efforts....Extraordinary achievements do not come easily and seldom bloom in barren and unappreciated settings.”

“Every choice is a series of renunciations: If I marry one person, I cannot marry anyone else; if I live in one place, I cannot live anywhere else; if I choose a certain career, that excludes many other careers; if I have this, then I cannot have that. The list could go on indefinitely. To choose one thing is to renounce others. That’s the nature of choice.”

CIRCUMSTANCES

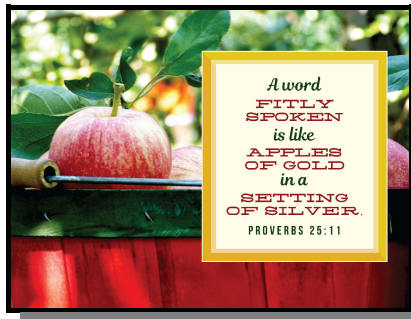
Nido Quebin

“Your present circumstances don’t determine where you can go; they merely determine where you started.”

PEOPLE LIKE STICKY NOTES

Fr. Brian Cavanaugh, TOR

“Some people are like sticky notes, they apply themselves but never seem to be able to stick with anything for very long.”



EXCELLENCE IS A HABIT

Aristotle

“Excellence is an act won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but rather we have those because we have acted rightly.

WHOM WE MARRY

Stanley Hauerwas

“We never know whom we marry, we just think we do. Or even if we first marry the right person, just give it a while and he or she will change. For marriage, being the enormous thing it is means we are not the same person after we have entered into it. The primary problem is learning how to love and care for the stranger to whom you find yourself married.”

BEING A CHRISTIAN

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“Being a Christian is less about cautiously avoiding sin than about courageously and actively doing God’s will.”

BUILD COMMUNITY HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, Spring '84

“Individuals do not ‘build community,’ life does. Just as one cannot ‘get a friend’ by making another into a friend, so too, people cannot ‘build a community.’ Both happen as the natural outcome of our being present to life and sharing that life out of our own experience.”

BELIEVE WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING Anon. *Sower's Seeds Aplenty*, #34, p. 25

A young college student, considered to be an intellectual progressive, announced to a group of friends that he would believe nothing that he could not understand. Another student, who lived on a farm nearby, turned to the intellectual and remarked, “As I drove to campus today, I passed a field in which some sheep were grazing. Do you believe it?”

“Sure,” replied the young man.

“Well, not far from the sheep,” the student-farmer said, “some calves were chewing on the fresh grass. Do you believe it?”

“Yeah, why not?”

“Well, not too far down the road there was a gaggle of geese feeding. Do you believe this?” asked the student-farmer.

“I guess so,” came the reply.

“Well,” said the student-farmer, “the grass that the sheep ate will turn into wool; the grass that the calves ate will turn into hair; the grass that the geese ate will turn into feathers. Do you believe this?”

“Sure I do,” the too-smart student answered.

“But do you understand it?”

“Uh, no,” the intellectual student said, somewhat puzzled.

“You know,” said the student-farmer, “if you live long enough, you will find that there are a great many things you will believe without understanding.”

GOD’S VOICE WITHIN: Mark E. Thibodeaux, SJ *The Ignatian Way to Discover God’s Will*, p. xiii

“If we are self-reflective people, we ask ourselves as well: *Who do I want to become? What do I most want to do with my life? Who is God calling me to be?*”

“...Sometimes we get paralyzed by such questions, and fearing the need to make important decisions, we postpone them, avoid answering them fully, or simply ignore them. Decisions can overwhelm us.”

WHAT IS A FRIEND C. Raymond Beran, p. 23

“Every human being either adds to or subtracts from the happiness of those with whom he or she comes in contact.”

MAKE YOUR DECISION Source Unknown

Ronald Reagan once told the story of his kind aunt who always treated him special. She took him to the local shoemaker to have a pair of custom shoes made for young Ronnie. The cobbler asked him, “Do you want round toes or square toes on the shoes?”

Ronnie hemmed and hawed and didn’t know what he wanted. So the cobbler said, “That’s all right, come back in a day or two and tell me what you want.”

A few days later the shoe-maker saw Ronnie around town and asked, “Well, young man, do you want square toes or round toes on your shoes?” And young Ronnie replied, “I don’t know. I haven’t made up my mind, yet.”

“Very well,” said the shoemaker. “Your shoes will be ready for you to pick up in a couple of days.”

When Ronnie picked up his custom-made shoes...one had a round toe and the other a square toe! The cobbler looked at him and said, “This will teach you, young man, never to let others make your decisions for you from now on.”

And Ronald Reagan said, “Looking at those shoes taught me a life lesson. If you don’t make your own decisions, somebody else will make them for you.”

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Jeff and Bill Keane



“Just so you know – if you’re not doin’ anything, I’m not doin’ anything either.”

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