



## Minding the Gap - September 2013

A Faith and Work Publication

Welcome to the first issue of Minding the Gap, a monthly thought about faith in the workplace!

Although it's been many years since I've visited London, I am still reminded of the statement imprinted in the ceramic tile of their underground platforms - "Mind the Gap". Clearly, it is a caution for passengers to observe the space between the platform and the train as they board. Not doing so may result in possible severe injury. This statement might well capture what we'd like to provide for anyone concerned about bringing their faith convictions into the world-of-work. We would like to give you a brief reflection meant to help you bridge or "mind the gap" between your faith and your work life.

It seems that one of the greatest challenges we have is the integration of our faith values/principles into our day-to-day work setting. However, in conjunction with this is that the world view contained in the Gospels and the rest of Scripture provide us with absolutely the best perspective on the how and why of what we do and who we are at work. Tragically, we don't realize this or, if we do, it is in a manner which we believe is "out-of-bounds" for application at work. So, the challenge for us, as people of faith, is for us to work together as a community in finding resource and solution of how best to bring Christ's views and acts into work.

At the conclusion of the Gospel of Matthew (Matt 28:19-20) Jesus gives a challenge to his disciples when He says: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And, remember, I am with you always to the end of the age." Unfortunately, we miss the breadth and depth of this challenge when we understand it as meaning talking to others about Jesus. Teaching really starts and goes far beyond words. For example, when our attitude and actions at work towards people around us communicate a great joy in who they are ("God saw everything that he had made, and

indeed, it was very good" - Gen 1:31), we are teaching the perspective of Jesus. It is believed that St. Francis of Assisi made the statement along the lines of: "In all ways proclaim the Gospel, and if you must speak about it". We need to remember this!

Michael Naughton, Prof. at U.St.Thomas and author of Vocation of the Business Leader, puts even more "meat on the bones" of this perspective when he states: "At the very foundation of the Church's social tradition stands the conviction that each person regardless of age, condition or ability, is an image of God and so endowed with an irreducible dignity or value. Each person is an end in him or herself, never merely an instrument valued only for its utility - a who, not a what; a someone, not a something. This dignity is possessed simply by virtue of being human...All human beings regardless of individual properties and circumstances enjoy this God-given dignity."

Well, thanks for reflecting with us, and perhaps this little thought will validate and encourage you as a Christian working to further our Creator's intent for what's within "His heart".

Warmly on behalf of Incarnation's Faith and Work endeavor,

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