



CENTER FOR CATHOLIC STUDIES

TO: WBC AND MICAH PARTICIPANTS
FROM: MONSIGNOR RICHARD LIDDY
SUBJECT: “THE BETTER LIFE: ARE ORDINARY CATHOLICS TOO TAKEN IN
BY THE GOSPEL OF *MORE*”
DATE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2011

AGENDA

- Welcome
- Opening Prayer
- WBC Mission Statement
- Scripture: Matthew 25:31-40
- Silent Reflection
- Sharing insights on Scripture
- Reading: **The Better Life**
- Discussion and Reflection
- Closing Prayer

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Woodstock Business Conference is to establish and lead a network of business leaders to explore their respective religious traditions in order to ask the individual executives:

- To integrate faith, family, and professional life,
- To develop a corporate culture that is reflective of their religious faith and values,
- To exercise a beneficial influence upon society at large.

The Conference, grounded in Roman Catholic tradition, welcomes believers who are open to and respectful of one another’s religious traditions. It is committed to the conviction that ethics and values grow out of one’s religious heritage.

Silent Examen

- *Pause quietly* and become mindful of God's presence in you, and then *thank Him for the many gifts you have been given*: life, intelligence, freedom, and family, friends, and opportunities to share your many gifts with others.
 - *Pray for the light to see where God has been* through the day- in what you experienced, thought, decided, and acted upon...
 - Look back and ask, "What happened? What did I do? *To what was God calling me?*" And then, "*Where was God in all this?*" How can I best *understand* the situation?
 - *Evaluate: how well I have done?* in recognizing God? in resisting evil?
 - *What actions should I take? What decisions must I make?*
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Matthew 25:31-40

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. ³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' ⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Discussion Questions on America Article: *The Better Life*

- When considering "Consumerism-the Gospel of More" can you offer ways that we can influence our families, our fellow workers, our students, in adopting the joy and the alternative values suggested in the readings, both in scripture and the article.
- Kyle Kramer asks: how can our daily choices-economic or otherwise- help us and others to witness more to justice, temperance and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.
- An on-line reader of this article wrote: "I wish that Mr. Kramer had attempted to reconcile his rejection of the "Gospel of More" with the needs of today's economy. Consumerism for the sake of excessive consumption is to be condemned. But fewer and fewer Americans can afford to indulge in such consumption. Absent consumerism, this economy will suffer." Can you comment?