



CENTER FOR CATHOLIC STUDIES

TO: WBC AND MICAH PARTICIPANTS
FROM: MONSIGNOR RICHARD LIDDY
SUBJECT: THE CHARISM OF LEADERSHIP
DATE: **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2008**

AGENDA

- Welcome and self introductions
- Opening Prayer
- WBC Mission Statement
- Silent Examen
- Scripture: 1 Kings 4: 29-34
- Topic: The Charisms of Leadership and Wisdom
- 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

From its beginnings, the Woodstock Business Conference has made a time of reflection an integral part of our monthly meetings. Often this five minute time of quiet is the only part of our day, even our week, when we are able to reflect and be at peace. Lately, since we have come together in the Micah retreats we have used the Examen of St. Ignatius to focus and help center our thoughts:

- Pause quietly and be mindful of God's presence.
- Reflect on where God has been in your day.
- Pray for light to understand what he is calling you to do.
- Evaluate how well you have recognized Him or ignored His call.
- Pray for grace to heed His call.

SCRIPTURE 1 Kings 4: 29-34

*God gave Solomon wisdom, discernment, and breath of understanding
as vast as the sand on the seashore.
So that Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all people of the east,
and all the wisdom of Egypt.
He was wiser than anyone else, wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite,
and Heman, Calcol, and Darda, children of Mahol;
His fame spread throughout all the surrounding nations.
He composed three thousand proverbs,
and his songs numbered a thousand and five.
He would speak of trees from the cedar that is in Lebanon
To the hyssop that grows in the wall;
He would speak of animals, and birds, and reptiles, and fish.
People came from all nations to hear the wisdom of Solomon;
They came from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom!*

Some say that a high intelligence is the first requirement for leadership. A leader's role is, after all, to show the way so that others can confidently follow. This proposition is proven in an instant by merely considering its alternative. Any particular gift is experienced as the ability to do easily what for others might be difficult or impossible. However, intelligence and wisdom are very different things. In moments of reflection a highly intelligent person might well ask himself for what purpose such a precious gift was given. In our tradition, acknowledging the Giver is the beginning of wisdom. It follows that a highly gifted person can hardly conclude that his gift is for his benefit only. This leads to a sense of gratitude, which is the primary indication of spiritual health. Such a person is led to pray for

- The Grace of Gratitude: To always acknowledge the Giver.
- The Grace to See: To always strive to seek out the truth of reality.
- The Grace of Freedom: To seek the peace of mind that frees one to take initiative—to act with authority.
- The Grace of Mercy: To willingly receive and offer forgiveness.

- The Grace of Transformation: To nurture within oneself the willingness to be conformed to God's will in all matters.

Intelligence is in the head; wisdom resides in the heart.

Question: Would such a heightened religious consciousness in an organizational leader be "good for business". If so, how would it operate?

The reflection and reading for this month's topic on Leadership and Wisdom is in the attached document from the *Harvard Business Review* and is entitled *Moments of Greatness: Entering the Fundamental State of Leadership* by Robert E. Quinn. (It is printed in its entirety as a pdf .file. accompanying this document.)

Question: How does your Catholic faith enhance and enrich what Quinn calls "The Four Fundamental States of Leadership." The following reflections will add further insight:

[W]e are at once so needy and yet noble that we discover ourselves, with our deepest and most intense potentialities, not by deducing the latter from a static notion of human nature, but by seeing them reflected in the free, gratuitous action of God on our behalf. (*Poverty of Spirit*, Johannes Metz)

Our place is not the auditorium, but the stage—or, as the case may be, the field, workshop, study, laboratory—because we ourselves form part of the creative apparatus of God, or at least are meant to form part of the creative apparatus of God. He made us in order to use us, and use us in the most profitable way, for His purpose, not ours. (*The Spiritual Life*, Evelyn Underhill)

How embarrassing for man to be the greatest miracle on earth and not understand it! How embarrassing for man to live in the shadow of greatness and ignore it, to be a contemporary of God and not sense it. (*I Asked for Wonder: A Spiritual Anthology*. Abraham Joshua Heschel)

What is needed is a reawakening to the rich variety of ways in which God chooses to grace human beings through human beings. Where God's *charts* (favor) is, there *charisms* will be. (*The Three Conversions Embedded in A Personal Calling*, John C. Haughey)