

Homily for November 29th 2016

To: Jesus, Son of Joseph
Woodcrafter's Carpenter Shop
Nazareth 25922

From: Jordan Management Consultants

Dear Sir:

Thank you for submitting the resumes of the twelve men you have picked for managerial positions in your new organization. All of them have now taken our battery of tests; and we have not only run the results through our computer, but also arranged personal interviews for each of them with our psychologist and vocational aptitude consultant.

The profiles of all tests are included, and you will want to study each of them carefully.

As part of our service, we make some general comments for your guidance, much as an auditor will include some general statements. This is given as a result of staff consultation, and comes without any additional fee.

It is the staff opinion that most of your nominees are lacking in background, education and vocational aptitude for the type of enterprise you are undertaking. They do not have the team concept. We would recommend that you continue your search for persons of experience in managerial ability and proven capability.

Simon Peter is emotionally unstable and given to fits of temper. Andrew has absolutely no qualities of leadership. The two brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, place personal interest above company loyalty. Thomas demonstrates a questioning attitude that would tend to undermine morale. We feel that it is our duty to tell you that Matthew had been blacklisted by the Greater Jerusalem Better Business Bureau; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus definitely have radical leanings, and they both registered a high score on the manic-depressive scale.

One of the candidates, however, shows great potential. He is a man of ability and resourcefulness, meets people well, has a keen business mind, and has contacts in high places. He is highly motivated, ambitious, and responsible. We recommend Judas Iscariot as your controller and right-hand man. All of the other profiles are self-explanatory.

We wish you every success in your new venture.

Sincerely,

Jordan Management Consultants

This tongue in cheek story came to my mind when reading today's gospel. As St. Paul said that in the eyes of the world the Gospel of Jesus is foolishness. Jesus says that the beauty of the Gospel is hidden from those who are wise and intelligent in the eyes of the world and revealed to those who are infants. What is it about infants that make them such an apt examples of those receptive to the teaching of Jesus?

Infants are completely dependent and trusting and are always looking to their mother for nourishment, support and love. We too are called to such a dependence upon God because as Jesus says:

All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows who the Son is except the Father and anyone one to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

The wonder of the Gospel is that it is to those who in learning the way of infant like trust to whom Jesus is most readily made known. To have such an infant like devotion was found at the end of St. Thomas Aquinas' life:

One night, in the chapel of the Dominican priory in Naples where St. Thomas was then living, the sacristan concealed himself to watch the saint at prayer. He saw him lifted into the air, and heard Christ speaking to him from the crucifix on the chapel wall:

"Thomas, you have written well of me. What reward will you have?"

"Lord, nothing but yourself."

His request was soon answered. On December 6, 1273, St. Thomas Aquinas was saying Mass for the feast of St. Nicholas in the chapel where the crucifix had spoken to him. Some profound experience - spiritual, mental, and physical suddenly overwhelmed him. He showed few external signs of the change at first; but he declared to his long-time secretary that he could write no more. "All that I have written," he said, "seems like straw to me."

During the next few weeks he spent almost all his time in prayer; on March 7, 1274, he died. He was only forty-nine, but his work was done. Christ's Church and its mother Mary had their champion upon the loftiest peaks of human intellect! No greater mind has been seen among the children of men than the mind of Thomas Aquinas, and he laid all his genius at the feet of Christ, choosing the way of infant like trust.

How different is this from the way of the world as suggested by the playful letter from Jordan Management Consultants.

But how in keeping with those who are learning to hear Jesus say:

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants.; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.