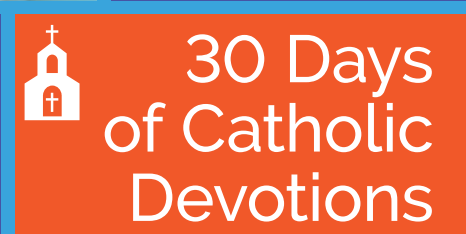
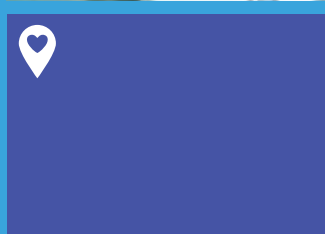


Keeping the **Faith** in the **Workplace**





Keeping Score

Train a boy in the way he should go;
even when he is old, he will not swerve from it.

Proverbs 22:6

He and his buddies had just graduated from eighth grade and were looking forward to a summer of doing nothing—together. That is, until his mother got him a work permit. The local park district needed scorekeepers, and he fit the bill. He was less than thrilled with the idea of being employed at such a tender age. He tried appealing to his mother's sense of guilt. But there was no changing her mind. She assured him his first job was a rite of passage that would serve him well.

On his way out the door for his first day on the job, he turned and said, "I guess I can kiss my childhood goodbye." The words stung. For a brief moment, the mother questioned herself. By the end of that day, he was exhausted. By the end of that month, he was proud. And by the end of that summer, he was a responsible young man.

Gail Goleas



The Good Tree

A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good...

Luke 6:45

When Jesus spoke about the qualities of a good person, he compared that person to a good tree. The good tree will produce good fruit in the same way that a truly genuine person will produce good works. When people live with sincere faith and trust in God, their words and actions will be in unison with the abundant store of goodness in their hearts.

Faith-filled people in the workplace will be examples of honest and consistent activities because their work will flow naturally from the store of genuine quality within them. Those who possess these “good tree” virtues bring daily blessings to the workplace. A faithful and duty-inspired employee can promote quiet and very effective teaching, which other workers will certainly observe. The “good tree” teaching of Jesus can be replicated in the workplace to bear fruit and touch other lives with enduring good results.

Fr. James McKarns



Works of Love

For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love you have demonstrated for his name by having served and continuing to serve the holy ones.

Hebrews 6:10

Work is not simply what we do for a paycheck. Work is love being demonstrated in concrete ways. In addition to their substantial efforts surrounding employment, think of the love that went into the meals that your mother or father made for you, their work to keep the house clean, to teach you morals, to instill the faith in you. Think of the love a parent is demonstrating as they are falling asleep while trying to put their little ones to bed, knowing that hours of additional work still awaits them.

A mother sits at the kitchen table into the wee hours of the morning with textbooks as her company, striving to earn a degree. A dad is out of work, trying to figure out which bills simply must be paid and which can be further put off as he searches for employment.

Done with faith, done without losing hope, these efforts are the “work and love” that they have “demonstrated.” And while some will overlook them, God will not.

Terence Hegarty



Time to Take Time

God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work he had done in creation.

Genesis 2:3

Time is the greatest limit upon us all. No matter who we are or what work we do, we have only 24 hours in a day and seven days each week. Is our time spent in proportion to what we are called to most value—relationships with God, family, friends, wellness, service or peacemaking? Or, are we obsessed with work? In the United States, we work more hours per week than people in comparable economies. We seem to evaluate practically everything according to productivity and efficiency, not necessarily how well we served or loved.

How can we get into better balance? In ancient times, God gave us a formula: honor the Sabbath and keep it holy. Let us renew the practice; let us dedicate one day a week to be spent praising God, one day each week to savor the goodness of life. There is freedom—and a sense of timelessness—found in rest and in God's holy presence.

Sr. Julia Walsh, F.S.P.A.



Work Unknown

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them.

Luke 2:51

Once Mary and Joseph got the twelve-year-old Jesus back to Nazareth after his star turn in the Jerusalem Temple, he spent the next twenty years working humbly as a carpenter in total obscurity. As Pope Francis notes in his 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, “Jesus worked with his hands, in daily contact with the matter created by God...It is striking that most of his life...awakened no admiration at all” (98).

So the neighbors scoffed, “Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary?” (Mark 6:3). Nevertheless, Pope Francis insists, “In this way [Jesus] sanctified human labor...” We may all have felt, at times, that our efforts have not been duly recognized, but don’t be discouraged—the same anonymity may grace our work with eternal worth.

Miguel Dulick



Prayer and Work

The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful.

James 5:16

In my youth, I worked in a variety of restaurants. In one diner, we began the early shift with a prayer. Emily, an older waitress, always led the prayer with the rest of the kitchen staff. It was short and Christian-focused. It seemed then like a strange place to have a prayer. But whenever I worked that early shift, I was amazed how that simple prayer got everyone into a more pleasant frame of mind. On other shifts or in Emily's absence, the kitchen was hectic, loud, often filled with bickering and unpleasantness. I preferred working when Emily was on board. From what I could see, asking Jesus to bless us workers and our labor transformed that kitchen environment into a peaceful place. Prayer and work—it's a good combination.

Paul Pennick

Keeping the Faith in the Workplace

Living Faith

30 Days of Catholic Devotions



This collection of original, inspiring and insightful reflections, written by some of our best-known *Living Faith* authors, will serve to remind readers that they can live their faith every day—even while at work. *Keeping the Faith in the Workplace* reinforces the Catholic calling to treat all people with justice and kindness and will help you to be a model of God's love wherever you may go!



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