

OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY
RESPECT, MERCY, JUSTICE

SESSION ONE

Introduction

- Karl Brown (*BA Theol; GradDip Theol, M. Leadership, MAICD*)
- 42
- Married to Davia Brown and father of Arthur & Benjamin.
- Academic Staff at the University of Notre Dame & Catholic Institute of WA.
- Involved in ministry for 23 years.
- Founded Faith Retreats as a resource for schools and Catholic institutions.
- Our focus areas are:
 - Staff professional development & retreats
 - Primary & Secondary retreats (including sacramental preparation)

SESSION ONE

INTRODUCING THE THEMES

RESPECT, MERCY, JUSTICE

- TODAY WE ARE LOOKING AT THE THEMES OF RESPECT, MERCY, AND JUSTICE.
- WE'LL BEGIN WITH DEFINITIONS, AND THEN MOVE INTO EXAMINING EACH OF THESE INDIVIDUALLY THROUGH A FEW DIFFERENT LENSES

RESPECT

RESPECT

- RESPECT: A DEEP ADMIRATION AND APPRECIATION OF SOMEONE OR SOMETHING.
- FROM A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE, RESPECT EXTENDS TO ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE:
 - RESPECT FOR GOD;
 - RESPECT FOR SELF;
 - RESPECT FOR OTHERS (ALSO 'SELVES'); AND
 - RESPECT FOR CREATION

MERCY

MERCY

- MERCY: COMPASSION OR FORGIVENESS TOWARDS SOMEONE - ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU HAVE THE CAPACITY TO PUNISH OR HARM.
- FROM A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE, MERCY CAN BE UNDERSTOOD AS A (VITAL) GIFT FROM GOD:
 - MERCY IS EVER-PRESENT IN THE JOURNEY OF PEOPLE AND GOD THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE;
 - MERCY IN THE LIFE & EXAMPLE OF JESUS CHRIST;
 - MERCY IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH - ESP. SACRAMENTAL LIFE.

JUSTICE

JUSTICE

- JUSTICE: FAIRNESS IN THE PROTECTION OF RIGHTS (AND THE RESTORATION OF WRONGS) FOR INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS.
- FROM A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE, JUSTICE CAN BE UNDERSTOOD AS AN ATTRIBUTE OF GOD:
 - JUSTICE AND MERCY TRAVEL TOGETHER.
 - BEING ABLE TO VIEW REALITY AS IT IS, AND RENDER TRUE JUDGEMENTS ALONG WITH MERCY GIVES 'WEIGHT AND MEANING' TO THE MERCY.

RESPECT IN SCRIPTURE

RESPECT

- PAY RESPECT TO WHOM RESPECT IS DUE, HONOUR TO WHOM HONOUR IS DUE.
 - ROMANS 13:7
- AND GOD SAW ALL THAT HE HAD MADE, AND IT WAS VERY GOOD.
 - GENESIS 1:31
- HONOUR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER, SO THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG IN THE LAND THE LORD YOUR GOD IS GIVING YOU
 - EXODUS 20:12

RESPECT

- “OUR MUTUAL RESPECT AND CHARITY IS TO BE ‘CORDIAL’ ...
...NOW ‘CORDIAL’ SIGNIFIES SOMETHING THAT REVIVES,
INVIGORATES, AND WARMS.”
 - CATHERINE MCAULEY

MERCY IN SCRIPTURE

MERCY

- NO ONE WHO CONCEALS TRANSGRESSIONS WILL PROSPER, BUT ONE WHO CONFESSES AND FORSAKES THEM WILL OBTAIN MERCY.
 - PROVERBS 28:13
- THEREFORE THE LORD WAITS TO BE GRACIOUS TO YOU; THEREFORE HE WILL RISE UP TO SHOW MERCY TO YOU. FOR THE LORD IS A GOD OF JUSTICE...
 - ISAIAH 30:18
- HE SAVED US, NOT BECAUSE OF DEEDS DONE BY US IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, BUT IN VIRTUE OF HIS OWN MERCY
 - TITUS 3:5

MERCY

- IT IS MERCY, NOT JUSTICE OR COURAGE OR EVEN HEROISM, THAT ALONE CAN DEFEAT EVIL.
 - PETER KREEFT
- MERCY, DETACHED FROM JUSTICE, GROWS UNMERCIFUL.
 - C.S. LEWIS
-

JUSTICE IN SCRIPTURE

JUSTICE

- THE LORD LOVES JUSTICE. HE WILL NEVER LEAVE HIS FAITHFUL ALL ALONE. THEY ARE GUARDED FOREVER, BUT THE CHILDREN OF THE WICKED ARE ELIMINATED. THE RIGHTEOUS WILL POSSESS THE LAND; THEY WILL LIVE ON IT FOREVER.
 - PSALM 37:28-29
- “HAPPY ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE HUNGRY AND THIRSTY FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, BECAUSE THEY WILL BE FED UNTIL THEY ARE FULL.”
 - MATTHEW 5:6

JUSTICE

- WHEN I FED THE POOR, THEY CALLED ME A SAINT. WHEN I ASKED WHY THE POOR HAD NO FOOD, THEY CALLED ME A COMMUNIST.
 - ARCHBISHOP DOM HÉLDER CÂMARA
- IF YOU WANT PEACE, WORK FOR JUSTICE.
 - BLESSED PAUL VI
- JUSTICE COMES BEFORE CHARITY.
 - ST. JOHN XXIII

SESSION TWO

STORIES.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

Dignity of the Human Person

- Key ideas:
 - No matter what the cultural or socio-economic context, we believe that everyone is made in God's image. Gen 1:26-27
 - This means that we each have a *God-given* dignity. We are sharers in the life and the dignity of the Trinity.
 - We must therefore treat everyone with dignity and respect, because God made them as well.
 - It is vital to take action to ensure the rights and dignity of all people is upheld.

Dignity of the Human Person

- 'The dignity of the human person is rooted in his/her creation in the image and likeness of God.' (CCC #1700)
- "Human persons are willed by God; they are imprinted with God's image. Their dignity does not come from the work they do, but from the persons they are." *Centisimus Annus*, #11 – St. JP II, 1991.
- "The basis for all that the Church believes about the moral dimensions of economic life is its vision of the transcendent worth -- the sacredness -- of human beings. The dignity of the human person, realized in community with others, is the criterion against which all aspects of economic life must be measured." *Economic Justice for All*, #28 – USCCB, 1986.

Dignity of the Human Person

- IN SCRIPTURE

The Parable of the Good Samaritan – Luke 10:25-37 (NRSV)

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

Dignity of the Human Person

- So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii,[b] gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." 36 Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

BACK TO STORIES.

QUESTION...

WHEN HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED
RESPECT, JUSTICE, OR MERCY?

THINK OF A SPECIFIC TIME - WHAT
HAPPENED? WHY WAS THIS SO
MEMORABLE?

SESSION THREE

WHEN HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED
DISRESPECT, INJUSTICE, OR A LACK OF
MERCY?

THINK OF A SPECIFIC TIME - WHAT
HAPPENED? WHY DO YOU THINK IT
HAPPENED?



So...

HOW DO WE GROW AS A
PLACE (ENVIRONMENT,
COMMUNITY) THAT EXUDES
RESPECT, JUSTICE, AND
MERCY?



FIRSTLY, IT BEGINS
WITH US.

WE ARE THE CUSTODIANS OF
CULTURE

NO ONE ELSE.

IT'S EASY TO FORGET...

"IF WE HAVE NO PEACE, IT IS BECAUSE WE
HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT WE BELONG TO EACH
OTHER."

MOTHER TERESA.

THE KEY ASPECT IS *LOVE*.

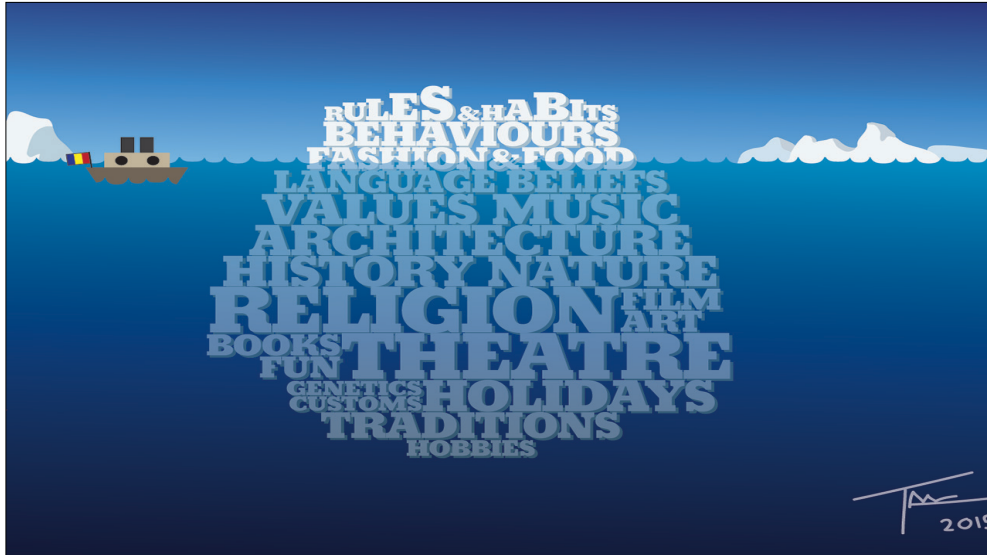
LOVE IS THE SECRET INGREDIENT
THAT HELPS PEOPLE (AND
REALITY ITSELF) FLOURISH.

LOVE —>
COMPASSION —>
RESPECT —>
JUSTICE —>
MERCY —>

REPEAT.

BUILDING THE CULTURE

- ENCOURAGEMENT
- GRACE
- GUIDANCE
- RESPECT
- HIGH EXPECTATIONS
- HOPE
- CONNECTION
- UNDERSTANDING
- UNITY
- ACCOUNTABILITY
- TEAMWORK
- MODELLING
- RECOGNITION
- POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT
- SPEAKING TRUTH
- WORDS OF AFFIRMATION
- IDENTIFYING NEEDS
- MEETING NEEDS
- 'ALL BEHAVIOUR IS COMMUNICATION'



THANK YOU FOR TODAY.

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