

**Attollo Outline Notes On The Talk by – Monsignor Shea on “Vocation of the Business Leader”.**

Document – Substantive reflection on the ethics of business for people of any faith.

Ora et Labora – “Prayer and Work”

How can business leaders achieve integration between what is dear to them and what fills their daily lives?

Presentation should really be called “Reconnecting Sunday to Monday – A Renewed Vision of Work, Leisure and their Integration”.

Executive Summary of the Vocation of the Business Leader – living a divided life: one of the most serious obstacles to serving the common good.

Deep divide in life. - Heart belongs to family, body belongs to work (Cinderella Man reference)

Classical View of Beauty – For something to be truly beautiful they must have:

1. Integritas (wholeness)
2. Consonantia (harmony)
3. Claritas (radiance)

The aim of seeking a “balanced life” is too low of a goal. We should be seeking a beautiful life; one of wholeness, harmony and radiance.

**Big Questions**

1. What am I working for? – Can’t be answered without asking a second question
2. What am I resting in? Certainly an odd question. We weren’t made to work but also to rest.
3. What am I living for?

Matrix – to try to get a better understanding of this concept. The subject is too complex to put information in boxes. We do it for the sake of helping with ongoing discussion. They can’t handle the full breadth of our experiences.

Thesis: If we can’t get leisure right, we can never get work right. (If we don’t get Sunday right, we’ll never get Monday right. )

From the bottom of the matrix up -

- **Work as a job** – An economic return. Extrinsic - functional / technical. Order, efficiency, profitability, growth and consistency, systems and structure. Issue: labor is boiled down to time and price.
- **Leisure as amusement** – The place where “real” living takes place. The highest paid people in our culture (sports, music, movie stars) reflect what we value most. *“They know it’s been me, they’ve been coming to see to forget about life for a while.”* Bill Joel’s Piano Man

Root of amusement – “to stare stupidly”. A – muse.

- **Integration of work and leisure as gratification** – Work is a means to make money for amusement. “I work for the weekend”.

Work	Leisure	Integration
Job	Amusement	Gratification

- **Work as Career** - Intrinsic. Creative, autonomous, self-esteem. Personally satisfying. Career = a vehicle to get from where we are to where we want to go. From here to there. Goal oriented. Danger of being a careerist is a pre-occupation with themselves. Never asking what the world need of me?
- **Leisure as Function** – Leisure refuels me. Leisure is downtime I need to be a fantastic career person. The reason we stop working is to rest and refuel, in order to get ahead – to be more productive.
- **Integration as Achievement.** Doing trumps “being”. My worth is not who I am, but what I do. Deep in the American spirit. When we first meet someone we ask, “What do you do?”

Work	Leisure	Integration
Career	Function	Achievement
Job	Amusement	Gratification

Our work is never merely what we achieve. It is about who we become.

### **Maxim - Anonymous**

Watch your thoughts, they become words  
Watch your words, they become actions.  
Watch your actions, they become habits.  
Watch your habits, they become character.  
Watch your character, it becomes your destiny.

If the matrix is true we have a cultural problem in how we look at work and leisure.

There is a third viewpoint however:

- **Work as Vocation.** Vocation comes from “to call”. A calling to give (transcendent motives). A gift of self. What gives us our nobility, dignity as humans is our intellect, our capacity to think, to seek truth, our will, our capacity to choose, to love and our capacity to give to others. Our capacity to give ourselves, our lives away in love. (Imago Dei = in the image of God)

We will never find happiness of purpose or real joy in life unless we find a way to give ourselves away in love. This means the fundamental question in our life isn't “What do we do for a living?” or “What do we do when we are not at work?”. The central question in our life is: “How can I give myself away?”

I have a particular set of talents and gifts given to me and there are other people who need those talents more than I need them. Unless you find a way to give yourself away in love, you will be stuck inside yourself which is a dark place.

Favorite quote of Saint Pope John Paul II – “Man cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself . “ Gaudium et Spes 24.

He said there's a universal call to love, to be whole, to be holy.

- To give ourselves in our personal calling; our family our friends.
- To a particular way of work (doing). Our work allows us to exercise our gifts in serving others, servant leadership.
- **Leisure as Contemplation.** Fostering a contemplative outlook.

### Three Habits of Leisure:

1. Habit of Solitude / Silence – brings clarity and honesty that gets lost in the “noise” of the day. **“Only the silent can truly hear.”**
  2. Habit of Celebration / Sabbath – commandment of freedom, throw off the chains of “slavery” of work.
  3. Habit of Service – Go to the margins of life.
- **Integration as Integrity.** Integritas : a whole or integrated life.

Work	Leisure	Integration
Vocation (giving)	Contemplation (receiving)	Integrity (being)
Career (taking)	Function (using)	Achievement (doing)
Job (getting)	Amusement (escaping)	Gratification (having)

“God has created me to do him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another. I am as necessary in my in my place as is an archangel in his. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good, I shall do His work;”

- John Henry Newman

### NOTES

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