

Core Value of Faith – Spiritual Drive



VIRTUE CORNER

We now turn to a new virtue under the core value of faith! We have covered prayer and now turn to Spiritual Drive. A big part of faith in God is having the strong and meaningful desire to follow him.

Jesus promised: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied” (Matthew 5:6). What did he mean? He meant that if you really want what is right, or righteous, then you will get exactly that. There is a tendency in our hearts to tend toward what is easiest, or the shiniest thing or the quickest result. But as Lumen men and Christians we should desire the right thing – that which is righteous!

Much of the time we can stumble into the trap of not really deciding on what we want. We might think about how to get what we want, but we don’t often think critically about if that is really *what* we should want. We often just focus our desires on what we think we should want – a degree, a career, a big house, a wife and kids, a good reputation etc. Of course it is good to want some of those things, but a man of faith desires those things in as much as God wants them for him.

Deep down, everyone really wants something deeper: profound, lasting happiness. We want it because we were made for it. Every other desire is linked to that one. Every decision is made with that in mind. The first step to attaining the satisfaction Christ promises is consciously recognizing and accepting that desire: “What I want out of life is to be truly happy, just the way God made me to be.” The second step is looking for that happiness in the right place, and the right place is “righteousness.” This means living in a “right” relationship with God and with others, as described by Christ in the Gospels. The happiness we seek is the byproduct of that right relationship, the fruit of an active and energetic love for the Gospels.

Once we set our hearts on what God wants for us, **we then** need a constant and firm spiritual drive toward that end. A heart that is set decisively on those things and places the priority and proper means to follow God’s will, will **not seek** him in vain. We will be blessed as Jesus promised. The word “blessed” comes from the Greek word “makarios” – then name of the island of Cyprus which was paradise for the Greeks.

Jesus was saying that if you follow what is right, you will be blessed with the reward of paradise. Is there anything else that Faith would have us pursue? That is the ultimate prize of any human life!

I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish that He didn't trust me so much. - St Theresa of Calcutta



GOSPEL REFLECTION (30 MIN)

Matthew 13: 44-46

The kingdom of Heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off in his joy, sells everything he owns and buys the field. Again, the kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

John 6:60-71

Then many of his disciples who were listening said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" 61 Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them, "Does this shock you? 62 What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? 63 It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 64 But there are some of you who do not believe." Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him. 65 And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father." 66 As a result of this, many [of] his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. 67 Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" 68 Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God." 70 Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you twelve? Yet is not one of you a devil?" 71 He was referring to Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot; it was he who would betray him, one of the Twelve.

Questions for Discussion:

1. Context: Matthew 13 contains 7 parables and these ones of the hidden treasure and fine pearls are the 5th and 6th. Jesus is preaching to his disciples about the value of the Kingdom that it is worth selling all to obtain this one single treasure.
2. For Jesus, the Kingdom is without price and worth everything it takes to obtain it. He gives up his body and blood to conquer that Kingdom and share it with us. Do we value that Kingdom as much as he does? What would help us value it more?
3. Jesus uses business language to describe the Kingdom. A pearl dealer finds an amazing pearl that no one knows about. He is so convinced of its value that he goes "all in" to purchase it. Have we ever happened upon a deal we were so convinced would be worth gambling everything on? It's the guarantee of turning a significant profit that makes you go all in. Doesn't Jesus present the same guarantee? What holds us back from going all in on Him and his will?
4. In the passage from John 6 Jesus challenges his apostles with the doctrine of the Eucharist. He doesn't back down. The flesh is of no avail he says. He invites them to make a firm decision to be "in" or "out". Peter goes all in! What motivates Peter to do so?
5. What does it mean for us that we have come to believe and are convinced? How should we express that faith and conviction in our daily lives?
6. Jesus is harsh with one of the disciples who doesn't believe, yet who stays among the twelve. In spite of being chosen, Judas fails to believe. How can we avoid this duplicity of saying we believe but not showing the fruits of faith?



Self-Assessment and Key Takeaways (10 min)

Core Values Assessment. Spend 5 minutes in silence assessing positive and negative examples of how you live lumen's core virtues and assessing your own performance on each of these values over the last month. The quadrant below can help in jotting down some of your assessment as well as a tool to jot notes down during this Lumen Circle.

Lumen has identified three specific areas where it seeks to form and strengthen its members: Character - Faith - Leadership. Within each category lay more specific values, as follows:

Character



Prudence - sound judgment in determining action.

Perseverance - a strong commitment to overcoming all obstacles.

Fairness - giving God and others their due in thought, word, and deed.

Self-Mastery - controlling one's passions amid personal drive and success.

Faith



Spiritual Drive - a firm desire to live one's faith in thought and action.

Prayer - regular communication with God seeking His will and friendship.

Stewardship - maximizing personal and professional resources entrusted by God.

Confidence in God - a willingness to place trust in the hands of Providence.

Leadership



Excellence - the pursuit of distinction in business, family, and community life.

Integrity - consistency between what one professes to be and how one lives.

Magnanimity - commitment to serve by putting others' needs first.

Influence - moving others to think and act uprightly through conscientious effort.

What struck me in this circle and how I might apply it to my life? Is there a way my thinking or attitudes of heart need to adjust in the following areas of my life? What are the challenges I face and the opportunities for growth this coming month in these areas?

Prayer:

Family:

Business:

Lumen Action:





CASE DISCUSSION (30 MIN)

2 ways to go about it. Read the Case and discuss afterwards how it can apply to your leadership, parenting style. Or ask a member to voluntarily offer their challenges this virtue at home, in the work place or in their lumen action (volunteer work). The circle can offer some personal experiences on how they have confronted and resolved similar difficulties.

This year the Lumen Institute will focus the cases around the theme of different Leadership theories. Various chapters use the case time to focus on personal cases brought by the members which is fabulous, but for those who would like to use the case, we will use the seminal book on the subject "Leadership" by Peter G. Northouse. Each month we will take another case from the book which explores different leadership theories. Fr Daniel Brandenburg of the Atlanta Chapter will provide a power point summary of the theory to be seen before or during the circle.

Can This Virtual Team Work?

Jim Towne heads a newly formed information technology team for a major international corporation. The team is composed of 20 professionals who live and work in Canada, the United States, Europe, South America, Africa, and Australia. All members of the team report to Jim. The team is a virtual team connected primarily via videoconference, group decision-support software, e-mail, text, and telephone. The team has met twice in a face-to-face setting to set goals and plan. All of the team members are quite competent in their respective technical areas. Some team members have a long and valued history with the company; others have recently joined the company through a corporate merger. The team members have never worked together on any projects. The task of the team is to develop and implement technology innovations for all global business units. The team members are excited about the importance and the innovative nature of their assignment. They respect each other and enjoy being part of this team. However, the team is having difficulty getting off the ground, and the members report being extremely overloaded.

Most team members travel to business sites at least 2 weeks each month. The travel is important, but it causes team members to get farther behind. The team has one half-time secretary, located in New York. Her primary responsibility is to organize travel and meetings of team members. Team members are working on several projects at once and have great difficulty finishing any of the projects. One team member has 500 unread e-mail messages because each team member sends copies of all messages to everyone on the team. Jim is under great pressure to prove that this team can work and provide a valuable function to the organization.

Questions

1. Which of the eight characteristics of team excellence* are lacking in this team? (*clear elevating goal, results driven structure, competent team members, unified commitment, collaborative climate, standards of excellence, external support and recognition, principled leadership)
2. Based on this analysis of team effectiveness, should Jim intervene at this time, or should he just keep monitoring the team? If you think he should take action, at what level should he intervene (internal or external)? If internal, should his action be task or relational?
3. What specific leadership functions should Jim implement to improve the team? Why?



Resources:

https://www.homeworkforyou.com/static_media/uploadedfiles/Northouse%20BOOK.pdf

The Wisdom of the Church on Spiritual Drive

The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for... (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #27)

Man is by nature and vocation a religious being. Coming from God, going towards God, man lives a fully human life only if he freely lives by this bond with God. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #44)

The beatitude we are promised confronts us with decisive moral choices. It invites us to purify our hearts of bad instincts and to seek the love of God above all else. It teaches us that true happiness is not found in riches or well-being, in human fame or power, or in any human achievement – however beneficial it may be – such as science, technology, and art, or indeed in any creature, but in God alone, the source of every good and of all love. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1723)

How can a truly virtuous man fail in anything? In what situation will he not be powerful; in what state of poverty will he not be rich; in what obscurity will he not be brilliant; in what inaction will he not be industrious; in what infirmity will he not be vigorous; in what weakness will he not be strong; in what solitude will he not be accompanied? for he will have for company the hope of a happy eternity; for clothing, he will have the grace of the Most High; for ornament, the promises of a halo of glory! (St Ambrose)



UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Manhattan Chapter

- Leadership Circles:
 - Greenwich March 10
 - Manhattan March 18
 - Rye March 11
 - New Jersey March 11
 - Naples March 2
- Cardinal Dolan Speaker Series March 26th

Atlanta

- Leadership Circles March 21
- Speaker Series w Steve Auth March 19

Houston

- Leadership Circles:
 - Downtown March 17
 - Woodlands March 27
- Speaker Series w Jim Olsen April 28

Chicago

- Leadership Circle March 18

WDC

- Leadership Circle March 10

New Orleans

- Leadership Circle March 11

Philadelphia

- Leadership Circle March 11

Nationally:

- Lumen Speaker Series – Manhattan – His Eminence Cardinal Dolan – March 26th For more information see attached flyer
- Pilgrimage to Italy, Assisi and Rome with Fr. Martin Connor – April 26 – May 3 – See Attached Flyer For more information contact Fr. Martin Connor at mconnor@legionaries.org
- Pilgrimage to The Holy Land with Fr. Nathaniel Haslam – May 30 – June 8, 2020 For more information contact Fr. Nathaniel Haslam at nhaslam@legionaries.org – See attached flyer
- Patrick and Hombeline Baugier arranged a Spiritual Tour and Wine Tasting trip to France – June 7 – June 17 – this trip is SOLD OUT
- Fr. Bruce Wren and Mr. & Mrs. Grybas have arranged for Lumen couples to attend the Oberammergau Passion Play in Germany, September 28th – 30th. Please click here for more information: <https://www.passionsspiele-oberammergau.de/en/tickets/book-here>

lumeninstitute.org

- Fr. Michael Sliney is organizing an annual Father/Daughter Mission and Service Trip to New Orleans, October 8 – 11

Please click here for more information:



Character



Faith



Leadership

