

From the Pastor



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There is one more thing I want to share with you about what I have learned during my recent time away. My focus used to be the ministry but I didn't focus on the importance of the connection between my ministry and my everyday lifestyle. I happened to talk about it with my spiritual advisor who told me that if I seek to be effective to bring people closer to God I should first seek for the fruit of a disciplined life. In other words, trying just to be good in doing what generally priests do is less effective for my health than trying rather to go deeper and see how God may use me in ways I haven't imagined. He was simply appealing to my inner self, to what I, as a human being, really want to be.

He told me that this actually applies to everybody who has the good will to make a difference in the world but may not know how to do this right. Practicing faith not just in the church but by everyday self discipline is the task not only for me as a priest but for everyone else as well. This why I share with you the suggestions of my spiritual advisor. So, bringing new and better disciplines into our lives and then see what God will do with it is being a leader by living the Christian life the best possible way. Let our life be our ministry.

The second thing is that we do the hidden things that no one else may wish to do. For instance, we may be a good leader that no one recognizes, but in the meantime, we can choose to minister in the forgotten places, such as the retirement home, or the prison, or among the poor. If we cannot teach thousands, we can teach one or two who will grow. Maybe one day we will teach more. If we are not asked to coordinate the big meals for the church, then we can show hospitality every week to church families in our homes. In other words, seek to "fall into the ground and die" like a grain of wheat, then see what God will do with it.

The third thing I have learned is that we can do what does not take a title, a group, or the church's money. What I mean is that we can do a lot of good without being first "appointed". We should not expect everyone to want to do what we are doing, and ask for money from the church to do it. It's perfectly OK to use your own money outside your regular giving. If we follow this plan, doors open all over the place. Who will hinder us if we start writing missionaries and praying for them daily? Who will mind if we spend our own funds to take short term missions trips or go for retreat? Who will feel it necessary to restrain us if we voluntarily clean the building or take care of the widow's car problems? Everyone will not have the same passion we have about this or that ministry. We don't need *their* passion, but *ours*.

And finally the most important principle: May we make our love the priority. Let us see the needs of the people around us and be passionate about helping them. God will make sure we will not be disappointed because meeting the needs of others out of love, helps us discover our true self. None of us need to wait for a ministry. As the slogan states: ***Just Do It!***

+ *Father Roger*