

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER APRIL 26, 2015

"I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD. A GOOD SHEPHERD LAYS DOWN HIS LIFE FOR THE SHEEP"

IF YOU FOLLOW THE NEWS THESE DAYS YOU WILL KNOW THAT SEVERAL ADMINISTRATORS FOR THE ATLANTA, GA. BOARD OF EDUCATION WERE SENTENCED THIS PAST WEEK FOR THEIR ROLE IN FALSIFYING TESTS RECORDS OF STUDENTS IN THE ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS...

EVIDENTLY THEY INFLATED TEST SCORES OF HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS FOR SEVERAL YEARS TO MAKE THE EDUCATION SYSTEM LOOK GOOD AND GET BONUSES FOR THE ADMINISTRATORS...

AS THE JUDGE SAID: THEY HELPED TO RUIN THE LIVES OF HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN.....PASSING THEM ALONG AS IF THEY HAD SKILLS WHICH THEY DIDN'T...

YOU MIGHT OF ALSO READ ABOUT A BANK MANAGER IN MIAMISBURG, I BELIEVE WHO EMBEZZLED NEARLY THREE MILLION DOLLARS OVER A PERIOD OF TIME TO FEED HER GAMBLING ADDICTION....

YOU MAY HAVE ALSO HEARD ABOUT A PROPOSED LAW IN CONGRESS RIGHT NOW ABOUT TRYING TO LEGISLATE AND ENSURE THAT FINANCIAL PLANNERS WILL ACT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THEIR CLIENTS - THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO AVOID A REPEAT OF THE MAJOR RECESSION OF 2008-2009.....

AND FINALLY, WE CLERGY ARE CERTAINLY NOT IMMUNE FROM THESE TYPES OF STORIES....

***IN THE PAPER THIS WEEK WE READ ABOUT POSSIBLE MAJOR
MISMANAGEMENT OR FRAUD ON THE PART OF THE PASTOR IN THE
FINANCES OF ST. PETER'S PARISH IN HUBER HEIGHTS....***

AND I COULD GO ON CERTAINLY.....

***BUT WHAT IS THE POINT AFTER READING IN OUR GOSPEL THE STORY
ABOUT THE GOOD SHEPHERD....***

***THE POINT IN EVERY CASE IS: THEY WERE NOT GOOD SHEPHERDS
IN EVERY CASE, THEY, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, PUT THEIR OWN PERSONAL
INTEREST, THEIR OWN FINANCIAL BENEFIT WELL ABOVE THE
INTERESTS OF THEIR SHEEP, THOSE WITH IN THE REALM OF THEIR
CARE, THEIR PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY....***

***THEIR OWN FINANCIAL GAIN WAS PUT ABOVE THEIR PROFESSIONAL
RESPONSIBILITY.....***

***IN OTHER WORDS, THEY VIOLATED THEIR OWN ETHICAL AND LEGAL
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES....***

AND IT'S EASY TO DO ISN'T IT?

***PRACTICALLY EVERYDAY MANY OF YOU ARE FACED WITH DECISIONS IN
YOUR WORK ABOUT THE WELFARE OF THOSE YOU SERVE, THOSE YOU
WORK FOR, THOSE UNDER YOUR CARE.....***

***YOU ARE FACED WITH DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR CARE, THEIR WELFARE
AND IN SOME CASES HOW IT WILL IMPACT YOUR FINANCIAL WELL-
BEING....***

THEY CAN BE DIFFICULT DECISIONS IN SOME CASES....

HERE I FEEL LIKE I'M PREACHING TO THE CHOIR.....

***NOT THIS CHOIR - BUT THIS CHOIR (THE CONGREGATION)
I'M CONFIDENT THAT YOU DO ACT IN A HIGHLY ETHICAL AND LEGAL
MANNER***

IN YOUR WORK DURING THE WEEK....

***OF COURSE, FINANCIAL WELL BEING, FINANCIAL SECURITY IS AN
IMPORTANT MOTIVATION IN YOUR WORK BUT YOU ARE ALSO
COMMITTED TO THE WELFARE OF YOUR CLIENTS, YOUR PATIENTS,
YOUR STUDENTS - AND THEIR WELFARE IS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY IN
YOUR WORK.....***

AND IT CAN AND SHOULD HAPPEN IN EVERY TYPE OF WORK.....

E.G. EVEN FINANCIAL PLANNERS.....

***AND I KNOW IT CAN HAPPEN BECAUSED I READ ABOUT IT IN MY OTHER
BIBLE, SPORTS ILLUSTRATED....***

***FORMER TENNIS PROFESSIONAL BY THE NAME OF DAN GOLDIE WHO
PLAYED IN THE LATE 1980'S AND EVEN BEAT JIMMY CONNORS ONCE AT
WIMBLEDON - BUT WAS PRETTY MEDIOCRE AND ONLY LASTED 5 YRS
BEFORE HE GOT INTO FINANACIAL PLANNING***

***HE EVEN WROTE A BEST SELLER ON INVESTMENT, TITLED THE
INVESTMENT ANSWER: LEARN TO MANAGE YOUR MONEY AND PROTECT
YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE AND HE SAYS:***

***"I GET A LOT OF PSYCHIC VALUE TODAY FROM HELPING PEOPLE
BECOME AND STAY FINANCIALLY SOUND"***

"IT IS THE PRIMARY REASON I DO WHAT I DO"

PRESUMING THAT IS TRUE.....HE IS A GOOD SHEPHERD

THAT IS AMAZING TOO....BECAUSE AT THAT LEVEL....

I'M SURE THE TEMPTATIONS ARE GREAT FOR THE PRIMARY REASON TO

BE PERSONAL FINANCIAL GAIN.....IN OTHER WORDS.....GREED

AS I SAID I FEEL LIKE I'M PREACHING TO THE CHOIR HERE....

FIRST OF ALL, ALL OF YOU HAVE CHOSEN THIS COMMUNITY.....

IT IS AN INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY (NON-TERRITORIAL)....

YOU'RE NOT HERE BECAUSE IT IS THE CLOSEST CATHOIC PARISH...

MOST OF YOU, HAVE QUITE AN INVESTMENT IN THIS COMMUNITY AND

ITS WELFARE....

YOU HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF OWNERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS

WELL BEING....OVER THE YEARS - IT'S AMAZING WHEN I OBSERVE IT...

YOU DON'T DO IT PRIMARILY FOR SOME PERSONAL GAIN..

THERE IS MORE LAY LEADERSHIP, MORE LAY OWNERSHIP, MORE LAY

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS PARISH THAN YOUR AVERAGE PARISH...

ANY PARISH I'VE COME ACROSS....

IN OTHER WORDS, WHEN IT COMES TO THIS FLOCK YOU ARE GOOD

SHEPHERDS ...

YOU DON'T DO IT FOR PERSONAL GAIN SO MUCH AS YOU CARE FOR THE

FLOCK....

YOU CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY; YOU CARE FOR YOUR FAMILIES....

YOU CARE ABOUT THE FUTURE,,,

YOU SUPPORT THIS COMMUNITY FINANCIALLY AND ALWAYS HAVE

*GENEROUSLY AND NO DOUBT WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO THIS YEAR
EVEN THOUGH WE ARE A LITTLE BEHIND FINANCIALLY AS WE
APPROACH THE END OF OUR FISCAL YEAR...(I HAD TO GET THAT IN)
AND YOU CARE FOR THOSE OUTSIDE OF THE COMMUNITY....
THAT COMES OUT IN SO MANY WAYS.....*

IN YOUR CONCERN FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE....

E.G. IN YOUR CONCERN FOR THE CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL....

THIS YEAR WE ARE DOING BETTER THAN EVER....

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GENEROSITY!

AND WE HAVE A COUPLE MORE WEEKS - SO IT'S NOT TOO LATE....

I HAD TO GET THAT IN ALSO...

*"I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD. A GOOD SHEPHERD LAYS DOWN HIS LIFE
FOR THE SHEEP"*

*WE ARE CALLED TO FOLLOW THE GOOD SHEPHERD BY BEING A GOOD
SHEPHERD IN OUR OWN LIVING SITUATIONS.....*

*LAY DOWN OUR LIFE FOR ANOTHER, FOR OTHERS - IN YOUR FAMILIES, IN
THIS COMMUNITY, IN OUR WORK.....*

*AS WE END LET US TAKE A MOMENT AND PRAY FOR THE COURAGE, THE
LOVE TO GIVE OF OURSELVES FOR OUR FAMILIES, FOR OUR FRIENDS,
FOR THIS COMMUNITY.....*

THANK YOU