

9.14.2013

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## Building Relationships

### Don't Judge A Man Too Hard

The Holy Fathers of the Church remind us that we need to think about how we might better ourselves more purposely in order to use the blessings God has given to us; so that we might be an enhanced blessing for Him to others. We should make this consideration in our daily walk. This is not an instinctive or easy thought process. It seems to be a natural thing for us men to focus upon ourselves and our wants, desires and needs.

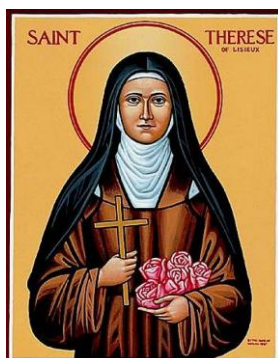
However, we are a people who need Community. The question becomes how does building relationships and the act of judging others interact? Our faith tells us that Judgment rest with God. More so, when judging another, you do not define them, you define yourself. This concept has a deep impact upon relationships of all natures and in all types of frameworks.

This is not the act of opining on political issues or urging governmental actions, etc but instead focused on Relationship Building, man to man, in the light of God's Word, Church Teachings and Saints of God.

Some thoughts to ponder:

*"Children begin by loving their parents; after a time they judge them; rarely, if ever, do they forgive them."* Oscar Wilde

*"For there are three ways of performing an act of mercy: the merciful word, by forgiving and by comforting; secondly, if you can offer no word, then pray - that too is mercy; and thirdly, deeds of mercy. And when the Last Day comes, we shall be judged from this, and on this basis we shall receive the eternal verdict."* St Faustina



*"And it is the Lord; it is Jesus, Who is my judge. Therefore I will try always to think leniently of others, that He may judge me leniently, or rather not at all, since He says: "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged."* St. Thérèse de Lisieux

What happens to our lives when we make a shift in our attitude and admit that Jesus really is our Savior? More so, what are the consequences in our lives when we invite Jesus into our heart of hearts?



Let us listen attentively to the wisdom found in Holy Scripture, our Catechism and in Modern Comment.

### **1 Samuel 18:1-5**

By the time David finished speaking with Saul, Jonathan had become as fond of David as if his life depended on him; he loved him as he loved himself.

Saul laid claim to David that day and did not allow him to return to his father's house. And Jonathan entered into a bond with David, because he loved him as himself. Jonathan divested himself of the mantle he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his military dress, and his sword, his bow and his belt. David then carried out successfully every mission on which Saul sent him. So Saul put him in charge of his soldiers, and this was agreeable to the whole army, even to Saul's own officers.

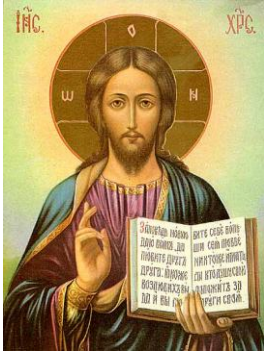
### **Sirach 6:5-12, 14-17**

A kind mouth multiplies friends, and gracious lips prompt friendly greetings. Let your acquaintances be many, but one in a thousand your confidant. When you gain a friend, first test him, and be not too ready to trust him.

For one sort of friend is a friend when it suits him, but he will not be with you in time of distress. Another is a friend who becomes an enemy, and tells of the quarrel to your shame. Another is a friend, a boon companion, who will not be with you when sorrow comes. When things go well, he is your other self, and lords it over your servants; but if you are brought low, he turns against you and avoids meeting you.

A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; he who finds one finds a treasure. A faithful friend is beyond price, no sum can balance his worth. A faithful friend is a life-saving remedy, such as he who fears God finds; for he who fears God behaves accordingly, and his friend will be like himself.





## John 15:12-13,16-17

This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.

This I command you: love one another. The Word of the Lord.

## Catechism

### 1970 - The Law of the Gospel

The Law of the Gospel requires us to make the decisive choice between "the two ways" (The way of Christ "leads to life"; the opposite way "leads to destruction.") and to put into practice the words of the Lord. It is summed up in the Golden Rule, "Whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them; this is the law and the prophets."

The entire Law of the Gospel is contained in the "new commandment" of Jesus, to love one another as he has loved us.

## Modern Comment – Don't Judge A Man Too Hard

Pray don't find fault with the man who limps  
Or stumbles along the road  
Unless you have worn the shoes that hurt  
Or struggled beneath his load  
There may be tacks in his shoes that hurt,  
Though hidden away from view  
Or the burden he bears, placed on your back,  
Might cause you to stumble, too.

Don't sneer at the man who's down today  
Unless you have felt the blow  
That caused his fall, or felt the same  
That only the fallen know.  
You may be strong, but still the blows  
That were his, if dealt to you  
In the self same way at the self same time,  
Might cause you to stagger, too.

Don't be too harsh with the man who sins  
Or pelt him with words or stones,  
Unless you are sure, yea, doubly sure,  
That you have no sins of your own.  
For you know perhaps, if the tempters voice  
Should whisper as soft to you  
As it did to him when he went astray,  
'Twould cause you to falter, too.



*Unknown Author*

**Questions to Focus on:**

1 The greatest obstacles to deep friendships between men are:

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2 Identify one quality you would want in a close friend. Explain your answer.

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3 Identify some of the ways friendships between men can be an aid to living a fully Christian life. How can they be detrimental?

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4 Jesus laid down his life for his friends. How is God calling you to lay down your life for your friends?

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**A Man who never quits is Never Defeated.**

**Men's Group Calendar**

<b>9/28/2013</b>	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
<b>*** 10/12/2013 ***</b>	<b>Men's Group</b>	<b>7 AM Mass</b>
<b>10/26/2013</b>	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
<b>11/9/2013</b>	<b>Men's Group</b>	<b>7 AM Mass</b>
<b>11/23/2013</b>	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
<b>12/14/2013</b>	<b>Men's Group</b>	<b>7 AM Mass</b>
<b>12/28/2013</b>	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
<b>1/11/2014</b>	<b>Men's Group</b>	<b>7 AM Mass</b>

**\*\*\* Special Presentation by Harry Donovan at 9AM (see page 7) \*\*\***

**CMFNEO Annual Conference is March 22, 2014**

We cannot live as Christians separate from the rock who is Christ. He gives us strength and stability, but also joy and serenity. *Pope Francis*



**Lord, God and Savior, by your love you draw me to yourself, forgive me, and fill me with every good thing, not withholding even the gift of your most beloved son.**

**Send forth your Holy Spirit to guide me in your path. Make me worthy of your love, and teach me how to forgive as you forgave. Amen**

**ACTION PLAN**

This week I will do my best to listen for God's will in my life by:

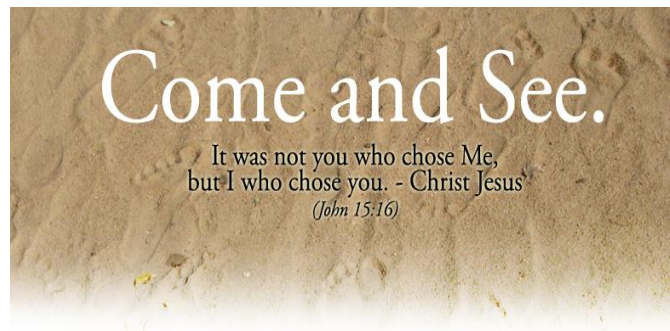
Creating a daily prayer practice

Seeking God in prayer and being quiet in His presence

Asking God for strength to not Judge others

Paying more attention to Blessing those in my life as God intends

Asking Jesus for help in becoming a better servant



May our Lord, God and Savior help us to not fall into the sin of being Judgemental.

May God Bless You.  
St. Hilary Men's Group.



*“Preach the Gospel at all times, and when necessary, use words.”* St. Francis of Assisi

Regarding St. Francis, Monk of God, the words are commonly accepted and attributed to St. Francis...even though the first appearance of them took place 200 years after his death. Some scholars defend the source as being St. Francis...some do not. In the final analysis, all accept that the words reflect his Spirit, Tone and Tenor.

Take this quote from Francis as an indication of where his heart was:  
*“It is no use walking anywhere to preach unless our walking is our preaching.”*

**Perhaps we men of God can add to our lives:**

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:16-17

**What does “Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary use words” mean to Modern Man?**

It means that in order to truly live a Christian life one must not merely know scripture but practice it as a lifestyle. In other words, it is easy to say, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" but it is much harder to live your life that way. God does not expect perfection. He made us. He knows our weaknesses. He does want us to try our best at all times all the while forgiving us **Unconditionally.**

Lord be merciful to we sinners and forgive us for we are Thy Good Servants.



*Dismiss all anger and look into yourself a little. Remember that he of whom you are speaking is your brother, and as he is in the way of salvation, God can make him a saint, in spite of his present weakness.*

*St Thomas of Villanova*

## UNLEASH THE POWER OF GOD'S BLESINGS IN YOUR LIVES

### Harry Donovan

After the Men's Group Meeting - On Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 9AM our good friend and blessing, Harry Donovan will be spending some time with us to share his Secrets of Success. It will be an informal session with plenty of time for Questions & Answers.

Some Topics to be covered.

- Greater Material Wealth
- Freedom from Money Worries
- More Financial Discipline, the Basis of Wealth
- An enhanced reputation and wider recognition in the Community
- The Satisfaction of following God's Law
- The Sheer Joy of Giving

This is a joint presentation of the Men's Group and Knights of Columbus. There will be an Intermission from the end of the regularly scheduled Men's Group Meeting to the beginning of Harry's talk.

Feel free to attend either meeting at your convenience. Do consider beginning the morning with 7AM Mass, followed by Coffee & Donuts and a presentation on the "Our Father" at the Men's Group.

*If you want God to hear your prayers, hear the voice of the poor. If you wish God to anticipate your wants, provide those of the needy without waiting for them to ask you. Especially anticipate the needs of those who are ashamed to beg. To make them ask for alms is to make them buy it.*

*St Thomas of Villanova*

