

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT - REFLECTION



I ask for what I desire as we begin this topic



I pray that my entire being become open to God's grace



I imagine these texts being addressed to me, and note my response

Grace: To develop a healthy relation to money, and to understand the importance of financial resources for the service of the mission

In 1552, Fr. Manuel Godinho was treasurer of the Jesuit college in Coimbra, Portugal. He was responsible for handling finances and responding to lawsuits. He found the work tedious, and hard on his prayer, and he longed for a more gratifying mission. So he wrote to Ignatius in Rome, asking for a transfer. Ignatius responded "Although responsibility for temporal business may appear and be somewhat distracting, I have no doubt that your holy intention and your directing everything you do to God's glory makes it spiritual and highly pleasing to his infinite goodness. For when distractions are accepted for his greater service and in conformity with his divine will as interpreted to you by obedience [to your Jesuit superior], they can be not only equivalent to the union and recollection of constant contemplation, but even more acceptable to him, since they proceed from a more vehement and stronger charity." Ignatius then made an important distinction... "If, however, looking only to the greater glory of God our Lord, you still think before God that this responsibility is unsuitable for you, confer with your superiors there, and they will do what is proper; and I will not fail to aid you from here, as one who holds you deep within my soul."

Ignatius Letter to Godinho - Palmer 367

Poverty means total detachment, at least in attitude; it means withdrawing trust from all things created and placing all our trust and all our hope in God, in the faith-certainty that our help can only come from him. It is to this total trust in the providence of God that poverty leads us by dispossessing us of everything and thus liberating us from attachment to anything. "The surest as well as the most needed contribution we can give to the reform of the universal Church," says Saint Ignatius, "is to go about it as lightly burdened with things as possible, as our Lord himself has shown us." The experience of human insecurity leads us to find shelter in the unfailing security of God.

Pedro Arrupe - On the Simplicity of Life

"For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it?"

Luke 14:28

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. How can I find meaning in seemingly tedious tasks? What purpose are they serving?
2. What is money to me? A tool for a higher purpose or a king that makes me a servant?
1. What are the practical reasons for my institution to deal with money?