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## “The Entrepreneurial Vocation”

- Introduction on “The Entrepreneurial Vocation”
  - A sacred calling or an exaltation of the exploitative?
  - Jesus’ words about God and mammon, rich and poor
  - The new situation of appreciation
  - Purpose of the Talk
    - To nourish the understanding of those engaged in business so that they may live out their vocation more ardently;
    - To help those in ministry or future ministry support better those in business and strengthen them to live out their vocations to the full.
    - To assist all of us to see that there’s supposed to be an entrepreneurial dimension to every Christian vocation.
- The Universal Call to Holiness
- The Vocation to Work
  - God’s plan for work in the beginning, before and after the Fall
  - The two dimensions of work (objective/subjective; transitive/intransitive; *facere/agere*)
  - John Paul II on the Gospel of Work
- The Specific Vocation of the Entrepreneur
  - Some of the marks of the entrepreneurial vocation to holiness
    - VBL: acceptance of risk, persistence in offering beneficial goods, creative planning combining resources, adaptation
    - St. Bernardine of Siena: efficiency, responsibility, hard work, and risk-taking
    - Participation in God’s creative work
    - Participation in God’s providence
    - Good Stewards
    - Innovative Servants of others’ needs
    - Inventive
    - Mentor Others
  - Scriptural passages in favor of those who put their resources at the service of others

- The Parable of the Talents
- Practical considerations to live the entrepreneurial vocation well.
  - Entrepreneurs are called to sanctity in business, to be good stewards of the Master.
  - Entrepreneurs must depend on God, receiving his gifts and responding to them.
  - Entrepreneurs must beware of all greed
  - Entrepreneurs must strive to maintain a unity of life
  - Entrepreneurs must strive to form a community of persons
  - Entrepreneurs must seek true solidarity with the poor
  - The entrepreneur is called to be charitable in his work and as a result of his work
  - Entrepreneurs ought not facilitate the metastasis of consumerism
  - Entrepreneurs must properly value rest and take it.
- Concluding Remarks
  - VBL: “The vocation of the business person is a genuine human and Christian calling. Its importance in the life of the Church and in the world economy can hardly be overstated.”
  - Every vocation requires a free and responsible answer.
  - “To whom much is given much is demanded.”
  - The Vocation of the Entrepreneur is to become a living commentary of the first two servants in the Parable of the Talents
- Comments and Questions

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*An audio version of the talk along with a copy of my lecture notes will be uploaded to CatholicPreaching.com.*