

THE LIFE OF THE PASTOR

Based on St. Gregory the Great's thoughts in Pastoral Care

You might want to use the worksheet as a means of reflecting on the conduct of a person with responsibility for pastoral oversight. Your own or another's. The purpose not being judgement but a focusing of areas of concern and well being which might be gently explored in conversation.

1. "Pure in thought"

- +Meditates on the example of the saints
- +Focused on what is good for the community
- +Disciplined in resisting temptation to use the office for one's own ends (spiritual pride, financial reward, emotional or sexual gratification, etc.)

2. "Exemplary in conduct"

- +Way of life is congruent with Christian teaching (not elated by prosperity nor disconcerted by adversity, shows wisdom in making decisions, not easily snared by praise, not given to vice but holding a strong sense of high calling, has a flame of love within for God and neighbor, self disciplined)

3. "Discreet in keeping silence and profitable in speech"

- +Says what is right not being afraid of losing human favor
- +Will speak against the wrong of worldly powers in defense of the flock
- +Discloses to people and challenges their sin and faults rather than flatter evil doers
- +Speaks and acts for justice
- +Cautious in speaking (prepared, not over dramatized, not careless but thought through and ordered, etc). Concerned for the unity of the community
- +Takes into account the practical needs of those being addressed

4. "A neighbor in compassion to everyone and exalted above all in thought"
- +Contemplation of invisible things, striving for the highest things
  - +Compassionately interested in the temptations and weaknesses of people, identifying with the needs of the weak.
5. "In humility be the comrade of those who lead good lives, but stern with the vices of evil doers"
- +Sees self as being in solidarity with and equal to others
  - +Finds joy in helping others not ruling over others
  - +Sound judgement in exercising authority. Not too great harshness nor excessive tenderness.
  - +Doesn't use authority to dominate
6. "...have a care of external matters, but without being excessively occupied with them."
- +Gives attention to inner life in manner that doesn't lead to neglect of administration
  - +Attends to administrative matters without relaxing concern for the inner life
7. "not be zealous to please...yet should give heed to what ought to please"
- +Less concerned with being loved by the Church than being loved by God
  - +Doesn't hesitate to challenge wrong out of fear that others will not love him/her
  - +Not bitter or harsh in governance
  - +Want to please so as to draw others, to the love of truth (accept being loved as a road to the love of God)

- 8. "realize well that vices often masquerade as virtues"
  - +discern with care and vigilance virtues from vices in regard to self and others
  
- 9. "prudence...in applying correction and connivance, rigour and gentleness"
  - +Ability to select when to overlook and tolerate a fault, when to monitor, when to gently challenge, and when to sharply confront
  
- 10. "meditates diligently and every day on...the Sacred Word"
  - +Awareness of how the normal activities of secular life tend to undermine our sense of pastoral responsibility and concern for our spiritual life
  
  - +Practice of meditating on the Scripture so as to renew the love of our "spiritual homeland"

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