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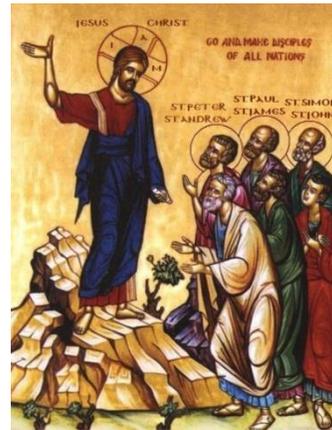
THE HARVEST IS TRULY PLENTIFUL by Archpriest Eric G. Tosi

“After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of Him to every town and place where He was about to go. He told them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field’.”

Luke 10:1-2

There is a concept in the business world and the social sciences called the “Pareto Rule.” You may have heard of the concept but never known its name. The Pareto Rule basically says that 80% of the problems are solved by 20% of the solutions. Likewise, 80% of the work is done by 20% of the people; and 80% of funds come from 20% of donors. These maxims have been proven by numerous studies and surveys.

It should come as no surprise to those in church work, especially in the field of evangelism, that this rule absolutely applies in ministry – both in local parish life and across the wider Church.



So how do we overcome the Pareto Rule?

Firstly, we need to see how Christ Himself addresses this. He tells His followers to ask the Lord to send out workers into the field. Sadly, it often seems that there are too few of these. Yet, if we ask God for workers, and commit ourselves to spreading His Word, He will send us help!

Secondly, we consider how Jesus directed His disciples to treat the people to whom they ministered and in whose homes they lodged. He told them to stay with their hosts, become involved in their lives, and be satisfied with whatever they might give. Do

not seek to take, the disciples were told; rather, give the message of Christ and salvation.

Thirdly, said the Lord, rejoice! The seventy-two returned with great joy, and Christ rejoices in that joy.

Three simple approaches – prayer, peace and joy – show us that the Pareto Rule can be defied! Rather than the 20% doing 80% of the work, there can be many more co-laborers than we might think. A few people can change the whole world. Those 12 apostles and 72 disciples turned the world upside down!

Let us rely instead on the rule of *Christ!* In Matthew 13:23 He declares, “As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.” It is that rule we seek to follow when we go out into the fields...and the fields are indeed very ripe for the harvest.

The Good Pastor

By Archbishop John (Shahovskoy)

A pastor is a spiritual architect – a builder of souls, constructing out of these souls the House of God – the communion of peace and love, “for we are laborers together with God” (I Cor. 3:9). It is the greatest, the most blessed work to take part in building the Kingdom of God. Spiritual enlightenment enables one – especially a priest – to be not a servant, “who knoweth not what his lord doeth”, but a son in the house of the Father, entering into his Father’s work. A pastor’s psychology is that of a husbandman and gardener. Every blade of corn is a human soul; every flower is a human being.

A good pastor knows his farms, understands the processes of organic life and knows how to further them. He looks at every plant and takes care of it. His work is to prepare and till the soil, to sow seed, to water the plants, to weed, to graft good stock onto wild stock, to spray the vines, to protect the fruit from thieves and birds, to watch over its ripening and harvest it in due season



A pastor’s knowledge is that of a physician who can diagnose a disease, apply various methods of treatment, prescribe and even make up the necessary medicines. A correct diagnosis of the disease, a proper analysis of the organism and its various psychical secretions is a pastor’s first task.

A pastor has a spiritual medicine chest by him: plasters, bathing lotions, cleansing and softening oils, drying and healing powders, disinfectants, tonics, a surgical knife (to be used in extreme cases only).

A good pastor is a warrior and a commander; a

helmsman and a captain, a father, mother, brother, son, friend, servant; a carpenter, a polisher of precious stones, a gold seeker; a writer writing the Book of Life.

True pastors, like pure mirrors of the Sun of Righteousness, reflect for mankind the radiance of heaven and give warmth to the world.

Those pastors may also be likened to a sheepdog guarding the flock of the One Shepherd. A good, intelligent sheepdog zealously runs around the flock and, always gentle with the sheep, pushes with its nose every sheep that lags behind, driving it to the rest of the flock; but as soon as the danger appears it is transformed from a peaceful dog into a fierce one. Everyone who has seen this will understand the true behavior of a pastor of Christ’s flock.

From Archbishop John (Shahovskoy), *The Orthodox Pastor* (Crestwood: St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 1966), pp. 29-30.

“His work is to prepare and till the soil, to sow seed, to water the plants, to weed, to graft good stock onto wild stock, to spray the vines, to protect the fruit from thieves and birds, to watch over its ripening and harvest it in due season.”

Koinonia

From the Fathers: On the Harvest (Sermon 51) St. Augustine of Hippo

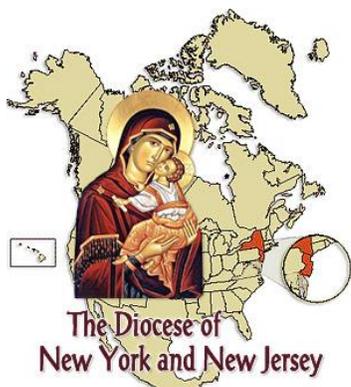
By the lesson of the Gospel which has just been read, we are reminded to search what that harvest is of which the Lord says, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few." Pray you to the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth laborers into His harvest. Then to His twelve disciples, whom He also named Apostles, He added other seventy-two, and sent them all, as appears from His words, to the harvest then ready. What then was that harvest? For that harvest was not among these Gentiles, among whom there had been nothing sown. It remains therefore that we understand that this harvest was among the people of the Jews. It was to that harvest that the Lord of the harvest came, to that harvest He sent reapers; but to the Gentiles He sent not reapers, but sowers. Understand then that it was harvest among the people of the Jews, sowing time among the peoples of the Gentiles. For out of that harvest were the Apostles



chosen, where now that the harvest was, the grain was already ripe; for there had the Prophets sown. Delightful it is to take a view of God's husbandry, and to feel delight in His gifts, and the laborers in His field. For in this husbandry did he labor, who said, "I labored more than they all." But the strength to labor was given him by the Lord of the harvest. Therefore he added, "Yet it is not I, but the grace of God which is with me." For that he was employed in this husbandry he clearly enough shows, where he says, "I have planted, Apollos watered." But this Apostle, from Saul, becoming Paul, that is, from being proud, the least of all

(for the name of Saul is derived from Saül; but Paul is little; whence in a way interpreting his own name, he says, "I am the least of the Apostles"): this Paul I say, the little, and the least, sent unto the Gentiles, says that he was sent particularly to the Gentiles. He himself so writes; we read, believe, preach it. He then in his Epistle to the Galatians says, that having been now called by the Lord Jesus, he came to Jerusalem, and communicated the Gospel unto the Apostles, that their right hands were given to him, the sign of harmony, the sign of agreement, that what they had learned from him differed in no respect from them. Afterwards he says that it was agreed between him and them, that he should go to the Gentiles, and they unto the circumcision, he as a sower, they as reapers. So also with good reason, though they knew it not, did the Athenians give him his name. For as they heard the word from him, they said, "Who is this sower of words?"

"Pray you to the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth laborers into His harvest. Then to His twelve disciples, whom He also named Apostles, He added other seventy-two, and sent them all, as appears from His words, to the harvest then ready."



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Diocese Sponsors Second Annual Evangelism School at St. Gregory the Theologian Church

The Diocese of New York and New Jersey held the second Annual Evangelism School from August 7-9, 2023 at St. Gregory the Theologian Orthodox Church in Wappingers Falls, NY. In an initiative blessed by His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, fully funded by the Diocesan Council and presented in conjunction with the Commission on Mission and Evangelism, the participants gathered to spend three intensive days of learning and reflecting on the apostolic work that is necessary to strengthen our parishes and missions. Speakers and presenters shared their experiences with the students who were gathered from every deanery in the Diocese, in addition to rising third year seminarians from St. Tikhon's Seminary who will serve in the Diocese after graduation.



The classes covered the theology and application of evangelization in a parish setting, leadership approaches, and communications and educational techniques for strengthening evangelization.

Among the instructors were Archpriest Eric G. Tosi, Director of the Commission on Mission and Evangelism; Archpriest David Garretson, Rector of SS. Peter and Paul Church in South River, NJ; and Archpriest Timothy Hojnicky, Rector of Holy Apostles Church in Mechanicsburg, PA. His Eminence Archbishop Michael participated in the School and offered invaluable reflections and direction to the clergy and laypersons.

As one lay participant reflected, "This was an incredible three days where I was able to learn from seasoned clergy and spend time sharing with other laypeople

on the importance of what we need to do in our parishes. I will be bringing this information back to my parish to share and implement."

Each day began with prayer and continued with two teaching sessions and a roundtable exchange on various issues facing parishes and missions, then concluding with an open discussion period. The School coincided with the Feast of St. Herman the Wonderworker of Alaska, one of the greatest inspirations for the apostolic work of the Orthodox Church in America. Archbishop Michael presided at the services for the Feast and spoke of the need to follow the example of St. Herman and never be discouraged in doing the necessary work in building up each local Orthodox Church.

The Diocesan Evangelism School is held each August at St. Gregory's.



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