

## Your Favorite Page - So tell me ... would you hire any of these people?

1. "I demand a salary commiserate with my extensive experience."
2. "I have lurnt Word for Widows, computor operations and spreadsheet programs."
3. "I received a plague for Salesperson of the Year."
4. "Wholly responsible for two (2) failed financial institutions."
5. "Reason for leaving last job: maturity leave."
6. "Failed bar exam with relatively high grades."
7. "It's best for employers that I not work with people."
8. "Let's meet so you can 'ooh' and 'aah' over my experience."
9. "You will want me to be Head Honcho in no time."
10. "Am a perfectionist and rarely if ever forget details."
11. "I was working for my mom until she decided to move."
12. "Marital status: single. Unmarried. Unengaged. Uninvolved. No commitments."
13. "I have an excellent track record, although I am not a horse."
14. "I am loyal to my employer at all costs .... Please feel free to respond to my résumé on my office voice mail."
15. "I have become completely paranoid, trusting completely no one and absolutely nothing."
16. "My goal is to be a meteorologist. But since I possess no training in meteorology, I suppose I should try stock brokerage."
17. "Finished eighth in my class of ten."
18. "Personal interests: donating blood. Fourteen gallons so far."
19. "Marital status: often. Children: various."
20. Job Duties: "Answer phones, file papers, respond to customer e-mails, take odors."
21. Interests: "Gossiping."
22. Favorite Activities: "Playing trivia games. I am a repository of worthless knowledge."
23. Skills: "I can type without looking at the keyboard."
24. Employer: "Myself; received pay raise for high sales."
25. Objective: "I want to play a major part in watching a company advance."
26. Experience: "Chapter president, 1887-1992."
27. Experience: "Demonstrated ability in multi-tasting."
28. Languages: "Speak English and Spinach."
29. Reason for leaving: "I thought the world was coming to an end."
30. Additional skills: "I am a Notary Republic."
31. Objective: "So one of the main things for me is, as the movie 'Jerry McGuire' puts it, 'Show me the money!'"
32. Objective: "To hopefully associate with a millionaire one day."
33. Skills: "I have technical skills that will take your breath away."
34. Qualifications: "I have guts, drive, ambition and heart, which is probably more than a lot of the drones that you have working for you."

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION	
NAME:	_____
ZIP CODE:	_____
EMAIL:	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Visa	<input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover
Amount you wish to give:	_____
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3-Digit Security code	_____
Signature:	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> If you wish us to keep this credit card info. on file, check the box.	

# CROSS LINKS

CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS, UNITED STATES PROVINCE OF PRIESTS AND BROTHERS  
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Dear Hearts and Gentle People,

I keep telling myself: "Spring is coming ... Spring is coming ... this too will pass." The winter of 2013-14 was, for most of us, a beast! This year, I realized more than ever that constant freezing cold can be as debilitating as constant blazing heat. Could it be I'm getting old?!

Spring brings new life and I can happily assure you that new life is just "busting out" in Holy Cross. The Saturday after Easter, **Adam Booth, C.S.C.**, and **Patrick Reidy, C.S.C.**, will be ordained to the priesthood in Sacred Heart Basilica at Notre Dame. But that's not all. Look at what is happening worldwide over the last several months! In India, 12 men made Final Profession of Vows and were ordained to the Diaconate. In the District of West Africa, 13 novices made First Vows. In the District of East Africa, seven seminarians and one brother made Final Vows and the next day, the seminarians were ordained deacons. Latin America has eight novices in formation. In Bangladesh, two seminarians and one brother made Final

### Easter Remembrance

May we join you in praying for your family members and friends who have given you life or need to receive some blessings of their own?

Jot their names on the enclosed prayer slip and return it to us or go to **Easterprayers.holycrossusa.org** to submit their names. During the Easter Season, which runs until Pentecost, we in Holy Cross will be remembering those folks (and you!) at Mass and in prayer.

No offering is required, but if you choose to send one, it will be used for the general needs of Holy Cross.

Vows and the seminarians were ordained deacons. In Mexico, Jorge Trejo, C.S.C., made Final Vows and was ordained deacon, as did Kesnel Ciceron, C.S.C., in Haiti. Also in Haiti, four novices made their First Profession of Vows. In the United States, 13 men are currently in the Novitiate.

Since the election of Pope Francis, much has been made of the growth of the Church in Latin America, Asia and Africa. Holy Cross is very definitely a part of that growth. In coming years, much time and effort will be spent discerning what this means for us and how we can come to know each other and work with each other in ministering to the Church.

This means, too, that we need your help more than ever. Education and health care remain the two largest expenses, as it is for so many families. I'm happy to announce that we have a new director of province development on board to help us meet this need. Kent Goffinet joined us in January 2014. Kent was previously director of stewardship and development for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis for eight years.

A 1992 graduate of Notre Dame, Kent worked for the University of Notre Dame for nearly 13 years in several roles in the development office. Kent is excited to be with the Province and to lead the efforts to raise funds for formation and seminarian education, the care of its retired

priests and brothers and its international mission work. Kent and his wife Karen (also ND '92), have three children: Alex, Ryan and Maria. Please join me in welcoming them to the Holy Cross family.

May the reflection inside be helpful for your Lenten pondering. I hope the last page provokes laughs or chuckles, since laughter is the language of Easter!

Be God's smile for someone!

*Fr. Hank*

*☺/Hugs!*

# The Pharisee, the Tax Collector, Pope Francis and Me

*“I have the first question ready, but then I decide not to follow the script that I had prepared for myself and I ask him point-blank: ‘Who is Jorge Mario Bergoglio?’ The Pope stares at me in silence. I ask him if this is a question that I am allowed to ask. ... He nods that it is and he tells me: ‘I do not know what might be the most fitting description. ... I am a sinner. This is the most accurate definition. It is not a figure of speech, a literary genre. I am a sinner.’*

*“The Pope continues to reflect and concentrate, as if he did not expect this question, as if he were forced to reflect further. ‘Yes, perhaps I can say that I am a bit astute, that I can adapt to circumstances, but it is also true that I am a bit naïve. Yes, but the best summary, the one that comes more from the inside and I feel most true is this: I am a sinner whom the Lord has looked upon.’ And he repeats: ‘I am one who is looked upon by the Lord. I always felt my motto, Miserando atque Eligendo [By Having Mercy and by Choosing Him], was very true for me.’”*

From the 9/21/13 *America* magazine interview by Antonio Spadaro, S.J.

I realize this is an odd way to start a reflection. Maybe the whole reflection itself will strike some as odd. But Lent is the season of penitence. It is a special time provided by the Church to reflect on the sinfulness of the human race, as well as our individual sinfulness. And for so many today, the question is: “What is sin? I just don’t know anymore. That’s why I don’t take advantage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The shopping list just doesn’t do it for me.”

If you are over 50, you remember the days when sin consisted in individual actions that somehow broke the Ten Commandments or the Laws of the Church. The biggies, of course, were the 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment and the Law regarding Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. When we did go to Confession, those were the sins we tried to slip in amongst the rest of the stuff we did in hopes that Father wouldn’t catch it. I don’t know about you, but it never worked for me!

Now it’s hard for us to see any pope as a sinner. After all, they (hopefully!) don’t lie, steal, cheat, covet others’ goods, have impure thoughts or affairs, have false gods,

miss Mass, etc. They are on the pedestal ... they can’t possibly do these things. And I can all too easily do the same thing, placing myself on the pedestal by saying to myself: “Yes, I do some of those things, but not all the time. So therefore I’m not a sinner ... I just commit the occasional sin. But the Pope says he is ... so where does that leave me? Better than him?”

The Gospel story of the Pharisee and the tax collector (Luke 18:9-14) gives us some good direction. The Pharisee – and he clearly has evidence to prove it – is the “good” person. He carefully keeps the Law and the Commandments of God. He faithfully observes the obligations of a good Jew: He prays, he fasts and he gives alms. And yet, Jesus is not happy with him. Why? Because he is basically a totally self-centered person. God is on the fringe of his life. He says, “I thank you, God, that I am not like others, especially this terrible tax collector ....” What he really is saying is: “God, you should be deeply grateful that you have someone like me (and there are not many of us); someone who is so faithful in following Your commands.” He completely forgets that without God, he could do nothing; he would be nothing.

Let’s turn his prayer into the hypothetical prayer of a “good” Catholic. It might go something like this: “Thank you, God, that I am a Catholic and not like those holy rollers and Muslims. I go faithfully to Mass and receive Communion every Sunday and once in awhile go to Confession. I’m generous with the collections, my children are all baptized and they go to good Catholic schools. I am faithful to my wife (well, maybe there is the odd peccadillo) and, thank you, God, I am successful in my business. It is not always easy but I try to keep on the right side of the law. I want to see all my children do as well as I have or even better. I don’t claim to be a saint, but I am an average – maybe above average – church-going Catholic, which is more than can be said of the many so-called Catholics and non-Catholics I know. Thank you, God, that I have not become like any of them.” Personally, I do this all the time in comparing myself to fellow Holy Cross religious and to bishops and other clerics. Who do you compare yourself to?

On the other hand, the tax collector is certainly a sinner. He has adapted a way of life that does not observe the Jewish law. If he’s like the average tax collector of the time, he extorts as much tax money from his own people as he can and hands some of it to the hated Romans and puts the rest into his own pocket. He really is a sinner. He really behaves abominably before God and neighbor. And God loves him!

How come? Is this God’s justice? The reason is that, although the tax collector is undoubtedly a sinner, he admits his sin. He knows that by himself he cannot do anything, that he cannot change, unless God comes to his help. “God, be merciful to me, a sinner,” he implores. God will come immediately to the help of a sinner, who in humility and truth, recognizes his sin. On the other hand, how can God come to help a proud man who thinks he can take care of himself?

One of the greatest gifts is for us to know our sinfulness.

As I said above, sin can too easily be seen as a personal failure to meet certain behavioral standards: “I was impatient;” “I was jealous, got angry;” “I was not at Sunday Mass.” Well, those things may be true, but sin is much more fundamentally a failure in relationships – with God, with other people, with oneself. We can sin against ourselves, with our family members, with our colleagues, with our friends, with total strangers and with people we never see but who have been affected by our selfishness. Pope Francis referred to this (in the above-mentioned interview) when he spoke of his days as a Jesuit Superior: “My authoritarian and quick manner of making decisions led me to have serious problems and to be accused of being ultraconservative. I lived a time of great interior crisis when I was in Cordova. It was my authoritarian way of making decisions that created problems.”

Sin is a failure to love, a failure to work for the well-being of others. Many of our worst sins – seldom heard in the confessional – are the things we don’t do at

all. At the judgment the Lord will say: “I was hungry, thirsty, lonely, struggling to get along, obviously in trouble. Not only did you not help me, but you didn’t even bother to abuse me, attack me, get angry at me, hurt me. No, you did absolutely nothing at all! I was in desperate need and you completely walked away from me!”

Now – and this is absolutely crucial – a deep awareness of sin does not separate us from God. On the contrary, it is a sign that God is very much part of our lives. That’s the paradox. Awareness of personal sinfulness comes because we have a relationship with God. Faithful prayer eventually gets us to the point where we begin to see the world and all its peoples with the eyes of God and love them with the love of God ... and we also start to love ourselves that way. It’s praying: “I’m grateful that you love me so much. I know I can do better in loving others like you love them and yet I know I can’t. Please help me, Lord.’

One knows he or she is a sinner because they know how much they have been loved and blessed by God. The most tragic people are 1) those who think that they do not need God in their lives; 2) who when asked, cannot think of anything sinful in their lives, present or past; or 3) those who think that God does not, cannot love them because of some terrible or shameful things they may have done.

I started off with Lent and end with the Easter Vigil. The *Exultet* at the Easter Vigil sings of the *felix culpa*, the “happy fault” when we human beings crucified the Son of God. A happy fault?! Oh yes, yes indeed. Many of our sins can be seen as a happy fault, if they help us to realize how weak we are, how much we depend on God’s help and the help of other people. If our sinfulness drives us into the embracing and loving arms of our Father, then truly death (isolation, abusing one’s self, being afraid of God) has been overcome and life (an absolute conviction that you are totally loved by God no matter what) has triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus.