

REJECTION MAY NOT BE SO BAD

Some years ago, Laurence J. Peter wrote a book about inefficiency in the business world. He called it: *The Peter Principle: Why Things Always Go Wrong*. He sent the manuscript to McGraw-Hill. Their publications editor rejected it, saying, "I can foresee no commercial possibilities for such a book and consequently can offer no encouragement." Peter sent his manuscript to 29 more publishers, and 29 more publishers rejected it. They agreed that its market value was limited.

After 30 rejections, you'd think that Peter would give up on his manuscript. But he didn't; he sent it out one more time-this time to William Morrow and Company. This time, it was accepted. And how did the book do marketwise? It sold over 8 million copies. Not bad for a book that 29 publishers rejected as having limited commercial value.

Laurence Peter's experience of rejection has been repeated over and over in history. Consider just three other brief examples:

First, there is Abraham Lincoln, regarded by many as the greatest president in American history. He was defeated seven times for elective offices before winning the greatest elective office of all

Secondly, there is Vincent van Gogh, regarded by many as one of the greatest painters in history. Yet he earned only \$85 from his paintings in his lifetime. A century later, just one painting alone, *Dr. Bachet*, sold the painting for the incredible sum of \$82.5 million.

Finally, there is Jesus, regarded even by non-Christian historians as the greatest person who ever lived. Yet he was rejected not only by the people of his hometown, as we saw in today's gospel reading, but also by the religious leaders of his time.

The point is clear. If Lincoln, van Gogh, and Jesus had let rejection govern their lives and keep them from doing what they thought was right, our world would be incredibly impoverished today. There's an important message contained in this for us, the followers of Jesus;

Jesus warned us against letting rejection by others keep us from doing what we think is right.

Jesus is making an important point:

Anyone who hopes to build a better world must be prepared for rejection.

And almost everyone belonging to Divine Mercy Parish has experienced the kind of rejection that Jesus was talking about. Take students in college or high school.

Ask them what happens when they try to remain honest in an exam while others around them are cheating.

Ask them what happens when they try to remain chaste at a party while others around them are being otherwise.

Ask them what happens when they speak out against abortion while others around them are defending it.

Ask them what happens when they speak out against discrimination while others around them are assassinating the character of minorities.

And what is true of young people is true of older ones, also. We've all experienced the kind of persecution and rejection that Jesus said we would.

As followers of Jesus, we can't let rejection and persecution keep us from being honest and chaste. We can't let rejection and persecution keep us from defending the rights of the unborn and standing up for the rights of minorities.

And the reason is clear. Jesus said to us in the Sermon on the Mount:

"Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." Matthew 5:16

When this happens in your life, you will know that - - - -

YOU ARE LOVED

Deacon Dan

Credit to Fr. Mark Link

