

THE MIRACLE OF A GENTLE TOUCH.

HOW TO BRING THE BEST FROM THOSE WE EDUCATE.

From the book of P. Ribes, s.j. "Foundry Workers or Gardeners"

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Theme:

Do's and Don'ts to improve the way we deal with people in general, especially with those entrusted to our care.

How to enable others to discover their worth

Target Audience:

All audiences: Parents, Teachers, Children, Youth, Priests, Sisters, Superiors, Counselors, Spiritual Fathers. Etc.

"AT THE AUCTION SALE" (The Parable)

Narrator: The auctioneer struck the hammer on the table, waved silence to the crowd and shouted:

Auctioneer: Ladies and gentlemen, the next item in the auction is this little, old violin. Who will start the bidding?

Narrator: With that he lifted up in front of the bystanders an old, dusty, ragged violin. Everybody looked at it disdainfully. No one bid a thing. After all, it wasn't worth one's time or money. After a while, some voices were heard:

Voices: I bid 80 rupees sir! 100 rupees, sir! 90 rupees, 150 rupees!

Narrator: Finally, the auctioneer shouted:

Auctioneer: Hundred and fifty rupees, once! Hundred and fifty rupees, twice! Going for hundred and fifty rupees!

Narrator: But, lo! From among the crowd a voice was heard:

Voice: Kindly, sir, let me try this violin!

Narrator: The unknown man lifted the violin, lovingly dusted it, tensed the strings, tuned it, took the bow in the right hand and began to play. The crowd was captivated, enraptured. Melodies, the most pellucid and sweetest ever filled the auction Hall. When the unknown musician returned the violin to the auctioneer, the latter lifted it up again to the crowd and shouted:

- Auctioneer:** Folks, what shall I bid now for this violin?
- Narrator:** In fast succession, voices were heard:
- Voices:** 4.000 rupees, 7. 000 rupees, 10,000 rupees.
- Auctioneer:** Who will make it 15.000 rupees?
- Narrator:** A voice was heard:
- Voice:** 15.000 rupees, sir!
- Auctioneer** **15, 000/- rupees going once! 15,000/- rupees going twice! Gone! 15,000/- rupees.**
- Narrator:** The crowd applauded and cheered. In amazement someone exclaimed:
- Someone:** I would like to know what has changed its worth in such a short time!.
- Narrator:** Somebody remarked:
- Somebody:** **What? The touch of a Master’s hand!**

(An adaptation of ‘The Touch of a Master’s Hand’ .of Myra Brooks Welsch)

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION.

1. How did the value of the violin increased so much and so suddenly?
2. How can we, as the master violinist, enhance the value of those we teach and educate? Give hints on how to bring sweet music from our children, students, wards and charges.
3. Have you ever met in your life some one - family member, teacher, friend, director, counselor, etc. who, like the master musician, drew out of you, your hidden worth and talents? Mention their names. Explain what did he/they do to you?
4. Have you ever played the role of the master violinist in people’s lives? Explain: How? When? What happened to them?
5. How did you feel about it?
6. What means and ways can we use to draw sweet music from the wonderful violins God has entrusted us, your children, your pupils your trainees, etc.?

INPUT: IDEAS FOR AN INPUT.

- ✓ We cannot gauge the worth of a person from his external appearances.
- ✓ The good we see in others is like the tip of an iceberg.
- ✓ There are many hidden potentialities in each person of which no one is aware of, least of all, the person himself.
- ✓ Such hidden ‘potentialities’ need the touch of a master’s hand to come alive.
- ✓ In fact, all of us are in need of a ‘master’s’ touch.

- ✓ Each one of us is capable of being a ‘Master Violinist’ and touching others so gently as to bring to life their hidden talents.

HOW TO BECOME A MASTER VIOLINIST.

(Give to all the members of your audience a copy of the DOS AND DON’ TS below)

If you wish to be a Master Violinist you have to learn the DOS & DON’TS of the art of touching others hearts and draw sweet music from them.

To learn that art reflect on the hints written below and begin right away practicing them!

THINGS YOU SHOULD DO **AND THINGS YOU SHOULD ‘NOT DO** **TO BECCOME A MASTER VIOLINIST**

“DO’S”

Show appreciation.
Trust people.
Have patience.
Be Kind.
Understand others.
Show interest in them.
Encourage people.
Show approval.
Give support to others.
Forgive them.
Take them seriously.
Believe people.
Make allowances.
Allow them to be themselves.
Praise them.
Love them ‘unconditionally’.
Allow them to make mistakes.
Thank them for what they do.
Accept them as they are.
Listen to them.
Affirm them.
Be sympathetic and empathetic.

“DON’TS”

Don’t criticize
Don’t judge them
Don’t discount their feelings and Ideas .
Don’t ever give them up in despair
No ‘put-downs’ please.
No poking fun, no irony, no sarcasm.
Don’t take away their freedom.
No threats.
No manipulation.
Don’t induce guilt feelings
Don’t throw expectations on others.
Don’t ask them to measure up to ‘ideals’, ‘standards’ and models
Don’t compare them with others.
Don’t make them compete with others.
Don’t lay down conditions.
Don’t show disappointment at their failures.
Don’t label them.
Don’t doubt their intentions and abilities.

APPENIX ONE: Case studies:

You may propose to the audience or participants some case studies for discussion.

Case One: A Teacher.

Anthony your pupil is an orphan child. He is very poor, shy and withdrawn. He has a very poor self-image. He thinks himself no good.

How can you be a 'Master Violinist' to him?

Case Two: A Parent

Mary, your daughter, is a physically challenged child - (polio case, stammering, affected by a hearing impediment, etc.) She is sad and depressed. She is clever, but she feels inferior to her brothers, sisters and to other children in general. How can you help her? What can you do to draw sweet music out of her life?

Case Three: A Novice Master/Mistress

One of your Novices hails from an economical depressed class family. He/she is gifted, good willing and generous, yet he/she feels inferior to his/her companions.

How would you help him/her to discover and accept his/her true worth?

APPENDIX TWO : Jesus the Divine Violinist.

Jesus had the touch of a Master's hand. He changed many broken violins (*people's lives*) and drew sweet music from 'them all. .

By gently touching them, Jesus brought out from them hidden treasures of goodness unknown even to them. Explain and discuss the changes Jesus brought into the lives of the following persons.

Lk 5/27-32	Matthew – Levi
Lk 7/36-48	Mary Magdalene
Lk 19/1-10	Zacchaeus
Jn 4/1-42	Samaritan Woman
Jn 8/1-11	Woman caught in adultery
Jn 20/24-29	Thomas.

APPENDIX THREE: Personal Examination Form:

Instructions:

In silence, before God reflect on the questions below.

Pray to God to show you how deal with those entrusted to you.

It would be good that you take some jottings for future personal use.

Questions:

1. Do, I, in my dealings, try to encourage those I come in touch with?
2. Do I show people recognition and appreciation?

3. Do I accept people as they are, without trying to change them, or forcing them to come up to my expectations?
4. Do I show people dislike for their ideas, or personal tastes?
5. Do I have preconceived ideas or assumptions of what others should be or not be?
6. Do I, easily, let people feel that I am disappointed with them?
7. Do I trust people? Can I confide in them?
8. Do I criticize people, condemn or accuse them?
9. Do I thank people for all they do for me?
10. Do I praise people for the good they do?
11. Can I accept them and understand their mistakes?
12. Do I listen and respect others, their ideas and even more their feelings?
13. Do I spend time with people?
14. Do I allow people to be 'themselves'?

APPENDIX FOUR; Impersonation (Fantasy Exercise)

You Are the Violin!

Instructions for the participants:

- Close your eyes!
- Imagine, fantasize that you become the violin of the story.
- Get into his skin. Were the violin a human being like you, how would he think and feel?
- What sort of old ragged violin are you?
- How do you feel being a dusty and neglected violin?
- How do you feel when at the auction, everybody looks at you with disdain?
- No one bothers to bid a thing for you. You are not worth anybody's time or money. What does this make you feel?
- How do you feel when the unknown violinist takes you in his hands?
- When he lovingly and carefully was dusting you?
- When he is tensing your strings. It pains, of course, but it makes you perfect?.
- Did you ever think that such sweet music could come from you? Why?
- How did you feel when you heard yourself? And when the people clapped?
- And now, how do you feel at the second bidding when everybody wants you?
- What did make the change? How did your worth grew so much and so quickly
- What did the violinist actually do to you?

AT THE CLOSE OF YOUR FANTASY WRITE A SKETCHY AUTOBIOGRAPHY:

1. **The Violin I have been.**
2. **The Violin I am.**
2. **The Violin I want to be**

