

## Workplace Apostolate

Here are some of the possible connections between the laity's experience in the workplace and their apostolate. These are ways in which people participate in Christ's service, evangelization and stewardship of the world.

**Being.** By being people that have become more and more "in Christ," light, salt, leaven. Christians serve, evangelize and act as stewards just by being present in the workplace. There is an organic influence from people who are in the process of falling and rising and living in the journey of stability, conversion and obedience.

**Participating responsibly.** We are part of the economy of God's world by our participation in the human drama of creating, serving, and producing. There is faithfulness in the process of earning our own living and, for some, in contributing to the well being of a family.

**Building community.** Holy joy can be experienced in relationship with other workers and being part of a workplace community. Every day offers opportunities for compassion, fun, and shared experience.

**Finding value.** There is intrinsic meaning in the work we do. Our work is of value to the world. It matters to the well-being of people that this service or product is available. We may want to be generous and broad in what we are willing to include here. There is often a narrow Puritanism that defines the life and work of others as being sub-Christian. Even products and services that seem very superficial and light may bring some of us great joy.

**Bringing change.** Some Christians thoughtfully and quietly take action to influence their organizations toward a more humane and just way of operating. This may include humanizing the work place for employees and clients or customers. It might also mean finding ways to facilitate the organization in taking a socially responsible stance. This involves us in a "ministry to structures."

From *Fill All Things: The Spiritual Dynamics of the Parish Church*, Robert A. Gallagher, OA, Ascension Press, 2008