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St Francis

One Body with Many Parts



May 8, 2019

One Body Many Parts

But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. I Corinthians 12:18-20

Alignment

Some years ago I read Jim Collins' book Good To Great. One of the points Collins made was about alignment of a group or organization. I thought it was very applicable to a local parish church. While I cannot remember the exact quote he wrote something like this:

If an alien from another planet landed in one of your meetings it should be able to see what the purpose of your group was without reading any of your mission or vision statements.

I think this reflects the message we find in I Corinthians 12:18-20 quoted above. We have many different ministries, callings, and gifts in each local parish church. The purpose of that church would be to see that all of the those ministries, callings and giftings were encouraged and equipped to work at maximum fruitfulness.

Alignment For All

Sometimes a local church will fall into a way of operating in which everyone is expected to be involved in everything. It is a kind of "lock-step" way of moving together. It can be focused on the ministry of the pastor, or it can be centered on the most recent program initiative. Often that means that only the gifts and callings that are in line with that program are used. However, when the direction of the church is to equip everyone for what Jesus has asked them to do then everyone can be aligned around the work of equipping and encouraging each other. That will make the church much more fruitful and effective as all of the ministries God desires for that church to have are realized and operating.

The Challenge

How do you feel about your local church? Is it your hope that everyone will be able to answer the call of Jesus and be equipped for the ministry He has asked them to do? That is how a church walks in alignment.

Coming Attractions

Sunday, May 11, 2019 worship at 10:00am (pot luck is postponed until the following Sunday in honor of Mothers' Day).

Sunday, May 18, 2019 worship at 10:00am followed by pot luck.

The first Sunday of each month, after church, Karen & Chris Webber will be collecting donated food from the Food Lion in Centerville and taking it to the food pantry. This would be an ideal time for anyone in the church to bring in their own donations!! The food pantry is in dire need of cereal, canned soups, and canned vegetables (not generally things donated by grocery stores). If this is something you would like to contribute to, just bring it to church and we would make sure it was delivered to the food pantry.

Please help us in the fun sharing our favorite recipes, in the form of a St. Francis cookbook. Please bring your recipes to the pot luck each month, and give to Libby or Karen. You can also email to lcp@libbyclarkphotography.com.

Centerville of Prayer

Goochland Chamber of Commerce, Bonnie Creasey, Executive Director. that the business environment would continually encourage the growth of businesses in our area.

The Diocese of Virginia

For the people of Christ Church, Glen Allen; Trinity, Upperville; St. Mary's, Goochland; St. Gabriel's, Leesburg; All Souls, Atlee that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Anglican Communion

For the people of the dioceses of Mumias (Kenya) The Rt Revd Joseph Wandera Yola (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Markus Ibrahim York (England) The Most Revd & Rt Hon Dr John Sentamu York (England) The Rt Revd Paul John Ferguson York (England) The Rt Revd John Bromilow Thomson York (England) The Rt Revd Glyn Webster York (England) The Rt Revd Alison White that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

John Maher

Grace and Peace,

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