

Traveling Companion: Go and see my Boss!

Fr. Michael Tracey

Our Pastoral Associate stuck her head in my office door and announced there was a couple outside who wanted to talk to me. She preceded to tell me that, initially, they asked to talk to the preacher. Sensing that something may not be right, she warned me that this couple may be mildly unusual.

I asked her to invite the couple into my office. The young woman, probably in her mid twenties, was tall, big boned and blonde. The gentleman was petite and around the same age. Initially, they looked around my office, trying to get enough courage to talk to me. I invited them to sit down which they did.

The young woman began their story. They got into financial difficulties and had to borrow \$800 dollars through a title for cash deal, the title to their car. I wondered if they came, expecting the church to pay off their loan so they could reclaim their car again but that was not the case.

“We were just in your church and it is very pretty. We’ve never been in a Catholic Church before but we really like it,” she volunteered.

I tried to make them at ease by asking some questions. She volunteered that they were from Texas originally and she had come to the Mississippi Gulf Coast to go to Gaming School but she found out that such was not her forte. He had taken odd jobs painting houses and doing some light construction work with various contractors. He just interviewed at Dupont for a possible job opening. She hoped to begin college in the Fall and probably take some business course.

The young woman continued to do most of the talking, asking if it would be okay if they attended one of our weekend services. They really did not belong to any particular church and were just curious. I explained some things to them and said they would be most welcome to attend one of our Masses on the weekend.

Then I got an indication of why they came to the rectory and wanted to talk to the preacher. The gentleman had painted a parishioner’s house and had been paid for it. Somehow, the couple communicated to the parishioner that they were in financial difficulties; that they had exchanged the title of their car for a loan to pay off an \$800 dollar debt they had accumulated.

The parishioner went to the bank to get some money. He then took the couple to the Title for Dollar place of business and paid off the entire debt for the couple. The couple received their car title in return.

Flabbergasted by the generosity of the parishioner, the couple wondered how they might show their appreciation to the gentleman. Instead the gentleman took them to our church, dropped them off and simply said, “Go inside and thank my Boss.”

Obviously, the couple had gone into church to do such before they arrived at the rectory, looking for the preacher.

As I thought about the magnanimous gesture of the gentleman to the couple, I realized there are so many unsung heroes who do great things every day under the cover of being anonymous. In a world that often seems filled with negativity, sarcasm, nihilism, indifference, political posturing, greed and selfishness; it is reassuring that in our world men and women of no note do great things without fanfare or reason for recognition. Instead, they simply do good and disappear, allowing someone else to take the credit.

Hopefully, I will see that couple in church on Sunday and others will reach out and make them feel welcome all because of one man’s faith in his God and humanity. And maybe, he and they will remind all of to “go and see my Boss.”