

Traveling Companion: Keep on dreaming...

Fr. Michael Tracey

Little boys have dreams of being a ball player, a fireman, a truck driver, an Olympic athlete – all at the same time. Little girls have dreams of being married, a nurse, a doctor, an actress and Miss America – all at the same time. Newly married couples have dreams of living happily ever after with children, owning their own home and having meaningful employment. High school graduates have dreams of being accepted at a prestigious college, finding a major that excites them and being able to have a good time along the way. Graduating college students have dreams of finding the right job that maximizes their true potential where the pay is large and the perks are many. Retiring workers have dreams of being able to live a leisurely life based on golden nest eggs saved for days of freedom, fun and frolicking. Teachers have dreams of forming, shaping and inspiring the students they teach. Researchers have dreams of finding a cure that will eradicate cancer or AIDS into oblivion. Martin Luther King had his own dream. Jesus had his and accomplished it. Even newly ordained priests with freshly anointed hands have dreams of winning the world for Christ.

Some years ago, a friend introduced me to internationally acclaimed speaker, and best selling author, Matthew Kelly. His first book, “The Rhythm of Life – Living Every Day with Passion & Purpose,” was a New York Times best seller. He begins it by saying that “everything is a choice. This is life’s greatest truth and its hardest lesson. It is a great truth because it reminds us of our power. Not power over others, but the often untapped power to be ourselves and to live the life we have imagined. It is a hard lesson because it causes us to realize that we have chosen the life we are living right now.” Basically, the book is a challenge to be the best we can be.

Kelly’s most recent book, “The Dream Manager,” dares us to dream and have the courage to make our dreams reality. The book, profiles a fictional janitorial company. They are trying to deal with a high turnover rate in their business. They discover that one of the ways to solve the problem is to find out people’s dreams and help them realize them. Every person has different dreams and we cannot force our dreams on another person. Parents often try to force their dreams on their children. They try to live their own unfulfilled dreams through their children.

Two people meet, find a compatibility and plan for a future together with a commitment. How often do they speak of or really listen to each others dreams and how compatible are their dreams. It seems impossible to have a great relationship without a sharing of dreams. Dreams are our life’s pulse. When dreams die, so do relationships.

We often tell children to stop daydreaming. As adults, we look for quick fixes to every situation or problem. In a business setting, adults often it is about making money and that making money will solve problems.

“You can ignore people’s dreams, but it will be at your peril. You are free to ignore you children’s dreams, your employees’ dreams, your customers’ dreams, and your nation/s dream. But in each of these areas of life, you will pay an enormous price if you do,” according to Kelly, “Dreams are invisible, but powerful. You cannot see them but they keep everything going.” He goes on to suggest that “we live in the midst of a culture that constantly lusts for more of everything, including knowledge. But the amassing of knowledge alone will not get us where we need to go. The real challenge lies in applying the truths we discover along the way to the various aspects of our lives.”

Now, I think it is time for me to get a cup of tea, some chocolate chip cookies and sit in my comfortable recliner and do some more dreaming.