

Monday, April 6

A Workplace—or Anyplace—Prayer

Pastor Hank French

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Colossians 3:17).

Working in a center cubicle or a corner office all day, driving a truck, fixing a furnace, teaching school, cleaning teeth, nursing the sick, cooking in a restaurant, working the register in a grocery store—all of these ways to make a living are great opportunities to join your *profession* to your *vocation* and *calling* as people of faith. This is important. What we do should reflect who we are and as people of faith, we naturally want our work to reflect our faith. Martin Luther once said that *any job* becomes a Christian vocation and calling when it becomes a way of simply living our faith with others.

Years ago, when I was working at Augsburg Fortress Publishers, I walked into a center cubicle to discuss a marketing issue with a co-worker. I noticed that she had pinned a copy of the Prayer of St. Francis to her cubicle wall. It was her *workplace prayer*. In the course of a workday or a workweek there were plenty of opportunities to put the prayer into practice.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is discord, union;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

O divine master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console, to be understood, as to understand, to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

No fuss, no showiness, no “holier than thou” stuff as she went about her work —just a word of forgiveness here, an act of kindness there, words of encouragement, laughter, an openness to understand where her co-workers were coming from, and why they thought and did what they thought and did. Her work was indeed a Christian vocation and calling because her work was a place where she lived her faith.

May I encourage you to make this prayer of St. Francis your prayer

Prayer: God of peace and love, today and each day make me an instrument of your peace and love wherever I may be and with whomever I may be. Amen.