

Business Speak

Successful project management

By Greg Smith

Whether leading a small or large project, there are key ingredients to success. First, the scope of the project as well as a clearly defined outcome must be determined and understood by the stakeholders. This begins with a leader who possesses the appropriate kind of leadership style which is typically that of a visionary and participant.

Identification of the necessary steps, the requirements to achieve these milestones (for example, permitting, purchases, acquisitions, navigation of regulatory issues, etc.) and the estimated timeline to reach each goal is paramount to success.

One of the most overlooked factors is the ability to be flexible. Despite the best of plans, circumstances will no doubt change, and modifications will be made. It is a delicate balance between remaining focused on the set goals and adapting to unexpected events, divergence of opinions, and other factors outside of the project manager's control.

Buy-in from stake holders must be obtained and often there is reluctance to share information or a willingness to compromise to achieve mutually beneficial goals. This is where excellent communication and listening skills come in. Each party must feel their needs and desires are being addressed with the end result being a general consensus.

Depending on the type and scope of a project, providing adequate progress updates to a manager, employer, or the public is important, as well. The leader should provide an update of the project and openly state any delays or successes. Praise should be given to the team as a whole.

In conclusion, here are the key steps of successful project management:

1. Develop and communicate the purpose, benefits, and outcome of the project to obtain consensus from the stakeholders.
2. Determine where adequate financial resources will originate.
3. Create and oversee a budget after necessary expenditures are identified.
4. When necessary, obtaining the assistance of individuals outside of the project with various areas of expertise.
5. The project manager should fill at least two roles:
 - a. Explain the overall vision to obtain the desired outcome.
 - b. Identify the steps and necessary timeline.
 - c. Play a "hands on" roll to be sure milestones are being met in a responsive manner.
 - d. Be flexible and adjust to changes in the plan. This may mean something that was communicated a month ago is no longer pertinent. These circumstances may result from new knowledge obtained, regulations and processes, or situations completely out of the manager's control. Again, flexibility is a must.
6. Conduct regular meetings with the stakeholders and others involved in the project to make certain everyone remains on the same page and is aware of the progress being made or obstacles which may occur.
7. Regularly report to the governing body or the public through memos, conference calls, or press releases and interviews with media depending on whether the project is private or public.
8. When milestones are met, congratulations should be given to the whole team and shared with the parties to whom the group is accountable. There is no one person who will be responsible for the success of the project.
9. Provide constant oversight of the budget to make certain there are adequate funds available and that they are being allocated properly.
10. Did I mention remaining flexible? A project of any size can be compared to safely landing an airplane. Adjustments for weather, wind speed and direction, etc. must be made.

Seeing a successful project and its benefits come to fruition is a very rewarding and time intensive experience, but the points listed above should provide an outline to achieving that goal.

Greg Smith is the director of the Eastern Oregon University Small Business Development Center located at 1607 Gekeler Lane, Room 148 in La Grande, OR. If you are seeking free, confidential business advising, please call 541-962-1532 or email eousbdc@gmail.com.

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Church to host fundraiser



Church members Ella Mullins, Harper Coiner, Ashley Lindsay and Keller Sweeney hold shamrocks or hearts to invite everyone to take part in the St. Patrick's Valentine's take-out dinner.



Janet Greenup points out the rotted exterior beam at St. Patrick's.

Several areas of the St. Patrick's Church were found to need repair when a team of experienced home repair parishioners inspected the church buildings recently. Discovered to need repair are shingles, windows and an exterior support beam with rot. Some repairs can be done with available funds and volunteer workers while others need professional attention.

The church's Altar Society and Parish Council are kicking off fundraising for these repairs and major maintenance expenses with a take-out only Valentine's Dinner on February 14. Tickets must be pre-purchased and are available at

Murray's Drug. Quantities are limited. Tickets may be purchased at \$15 for one or \$25 for two.

The meal will consist of Caesar salad, Ann Murray's homemade lasagna, garlic bread, sparkling cider, cheesecake and after-dinner chocolate. It will be boxed and available for pick-up at St. Patrick's Parish Hall on February 14 between 4 and 6 p.m. The pre-purchased tickets must be presented at the time of pick-up.

Tickets may also be purchased by contacting Janet Greenup or Kay Proctor, 541-676-9827. Tax-deductible donations for the church building repairs would also be appreciated and accepted.

DA's Report

Morrow County District Attorney Justin Nelson has released the following report:

-Teeman Eli Jackson was convicted of driving under the influence of intoxicants-felony. He was sentenced to 24 months formal probation, 90 days jail imposed, 120/60 sanction units imposed, alcohol evaluation and comply with all treatment, Victim Impact Panel, 80 hours of community service work and license revocation. Fine of \$1,000, no purchase or possession of firearms.

-Joel Michael Johnson

was convicted of assault in the fourth degree and strangulation. He was sentenced to 24 months bench probation, 160 hours of community service work, 30 days jail imposed up-front with the remainder of jail reserved for probation violations or revocations of probation, alcohol evaluation and comply with all treatment, substance abuse evaluation and comply with all recommended treatment, Victim Impact Panel, no contact with victim and anger management evaluation and comply with all recommended treatment.

Spiritually Speaking

Work and Prayer

By Fr. Thankachan Joseph SDB, St. Patrick Church



Fr. Thankachan Joseph

In the previous weeks we have reflected on the public ministry of Jesus. And the readings of this Sunday bring another aspect of Jesus' public ministry, that of healing. The Lord called His apostles to preach, heal and drive out demons. We see these elements very clearly in His life. He is a good model for all of us who are busy with the hustle and bustle of life today. I used to tease others, saying that they have no time even to breath due to the heavy schedule of activities. Look at our generation: most of us devote very little time to spend with the family or friends, or even time to pray. The result is that many of us live very restless, anxious, worried, depressed and spiritually impoverished lives.

In the Book of Job (7: 1-4, 6-7), the following words of Job clearly show that he is undergoing a tremendous agony and pain: "My pain is more than I can bear. I can't sleep at night. I shall not see happiness again." Job's lamentation is a reminder for all of us when we go through similar experiences in our lives to cling to God instead of blaming God. Job's cry for aid from the Lord we all feel when we become seriously ill, suffer accidents or misfortunes, or even more when someone we love becomes ill or even dies. Perhaps our hurt is not physical. Perhaps it is emotional - when a relationship breaks up, a child runs away, a friend or family member is publicly condemned. When we feel pain, regardless of its source, we want to join Job and say, "I shall never see happiness again." He was a man who believed completely in the Lord and had received enormous blessings. The devil tries to undo his faith. Eventually all of his blessings are removed, and sufferings are heaped on Job. While he questions what is happening, he never doubts nor loses faith. The life of Job reminds every one of us: Are we that strong in faith? Can we trust God even when we question? Do we accept both blessings and sufferings from our Lord?

In the First Letter to the Corinthians (9:16-19, 22-23), we read Saint Paul's account of how he tries to live the Good News. He is very clear: I must preach the Good News! Here we see Saint Paul not just enduring trials and tribulations but recognizing that preaching the Good News is required of him because he believes in Jesus. St. Paul tells everyone not to resist the word of God but, instead, to see his life as an example of adhering to the Lord without any distractions.

The Gospel of Mark (1:29-39) depicts the need of work and prayer to go hand-in-glove with the Lord. We see the active ministry of the Lord in healing, curing everyone from their ill health. We also see that in the midst of all his activities of teaching and healing, Christ finds it necessary to escape to a lonely place to pray. The Gospel of the day presents to us how in the midst of His most pressing work, Jesus took time out to pray and to restore His energies. We need to do the same.

Jesus's compassion and His healing of the sick is a sign of the Kingdom of God. Some churches continue to extend Christ's healing presence to others in their ministry to the sick. For instance, the Catholic Church, in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, prays for spiritual and physical healing, forgiveness of sins and comfort for those who are suffering from illness.

In today's Gospel, we also notice the importance of prayer in Jesus's daily life. Jesus rose early in the morning, moving himself from the crowds, and went to a deserted place to pray. When the disciples found Him, He told them that it was time to move on. We believe that in His prayers, Jesus found guidance and direction from God. We also bring our decision-making to God in prayer, asking for His guidance and direction in our lives.

These readings call us to spend time with the Lord, for a spiritual experience that will make our lives more serene, happy, calm, truthful and honest, and ever willing to forgive the mistakes of someone else. All these qualities we witness in the person of Christ, since He had the constant communion with His heavenly Father. Every one of us is invited to be like Christ, be constant in prayer and able to do much more in the present world of epidemic.

Transit plans to extend services

Kayak Public Transit and The Loop have partnered with Umatilla County and Morrow County to begin the planning process to extend services to the city of Boardman and the Port of Morrow. The purpose of the project is to provide safe and reliable transportation options to one of the region's largest employment centers.

This phase of the project will be to determine routes, schedules, potential bus stop locations, as well as develop capital and operational budgets. Public engagement is encouraged and there will be multiple opportunities to provide feedback on this exciting expansion project in the coming months.

This project is funded by the Statewide Transpor-

tation Improvement Fund (STIF), a dedicated funding source for improving and expanding public transportation services in Oregon that was created by HB 2017, the Keep Oregon Moving bill. The contractor selected to do the planning is Kittleston and Associates.

Kayak Public Transit is a public transit agency providing transportation options to seventeen communities in four counties in northeast Oregon and southeast Washington. It is operated by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and is funded through the State of Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant dollars, and local and Tribal dollars.

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