

Workshop Materials: Outline, Poems, Resources
SU3.5—Prophetic Retirement: Applying the Competencies to Volunteer Work, Nonprofit Governance, and Spiritual Growth. Presenter: Mary Bomba

Part One: Claiming the Gifts of Retirement

Introductions

About Retirement

- Brainstorm
- Three poems in small groups
- Feedback from the groups

Bringing the gifts of retirement to ministry

- Identifying the gifts
- Claiming the gifts in a busy culture
- Forming a prophetic vision of retirement.

Part Two: Applying Chaplain Competencies to Nonprofit Board Work
and Other Volunteer Activities

Introduction

- Retirees are often asked to join nonprofit boards and may not realize how much their chaplain skills qualify them to become effective board members—or that board experience and education can strengthen chaplain competencies.

Fundraising

- Is all about building relationships—and, per Henri Nouwen, is a form of spiritual care. *PPS1: Establish, deepen, and conclude professional spiritual care relationships with sensitivity, openness, and respect.*
- Involves working with professional fundraisers and funders. *OL1: Establish and maintain professional and interdisciplinary relationships.*
- Requires effective communication, especially by way of storytelling. *PIC8: Communicate effectively orally and in writing.*

Governance

- Understanding how organizations work, supervising the chief executive, avoiding factions, dealing with conflict, keeping professional boundaries. *OL2.2: Demonstrate skills in organization, conflict management, leadership, or supervision of others.*
- Developing the board of directors. Supporting staff. *OL2.1: Demonstrate the ability to build peer relationships for the purpose of collaboration and active participation in the creation and maintenance of a healthy work relationship.*

- Monitoring programs and services. *OL3: Understand and function within the institutional culture and systems, including utilizing business principles and practices appropriate to one's role in the organization.*
- Ensuring legal and ethical integrity. *OL4: Promote, facilitate, and support ethical decision-making in one's workplace.*

Other Applications of the Competencies

- Identifying—and honoring—the gifts and values one brings to the work. *PIC1: Be self-reflective, including identifying one's professional strengths and limitations in the provision of care. PIC2: Articulate ways in which one's feelings, attitudes, values and assumptions affect professional practice.*
- Utilizing effectively—and prophetically—one's time and energy. *PIC3: Attend to one's own physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. PIC3.2: Commitment to spiritual growth. PICA3.3: Life-work balance/time management.*
- Promoting respect, collegiality, and self-care in the volunteer setting. *Multiple competencies.*

Part Three: Resources and Discussion

- Discussion of attached “Resources.” Sharing other resources for retirement, nonprofit leadership, and spiritual growth.
- Sharing our stories and review: When combined with the gifts of retirement, spiritual care competencies can be a powerful force for healing beyond traditional ministry settings, especially in the world of nonprofits.

Old men ought to be explorers
Here and there does not matter
We must be still and still moving
Into another intensity
For a further union, a deeper communion
—from T. S. Eliot, “East Coker,” *Four Quartets*

No speed of wind or water rushing by
But you have speed far greater. You can climb
Back up a stream of radiance to the sky,
And back through history up the stream of time.
And you were given this swiftness, not for haste
Nor chiefly that you may go where you will,
But in the rush of everything to waste,
That you may have the power of standing still—
Off any still or moving thing you say.
Two such as you with such a master speed
Cannot be parted nor be swept away
From one another once you are agreed
That life is only life forevermore
Together wing to wing and oar to oar.
Robert Frost, “The Master Speed”

This is where your life has arrived,
After all the years of effort and toil;
Look back with graciousness and thanks
On all your great and quiet achievements.

You stand on the shore of new invitation
To open your life to what is left undone;
Let your heart enjoy a different rhythm
When drawn to the wonder of other horizons.

Have the courage for a new approach to time;
Allow it to slow until you find freedom
To draw alongside the mystery you hold
And befriend you own beauty of soul

Now is the time to enjoy your heart’s desire
To live the dreams you’ve waited for,
To awaken the depths beyond your work
And enter into your infinite source.
John O’Donohue, “For Retirement”

Resources

Books and Media

Garrido, Ann M. *Redeeming Administration: 12 Spiritual Habits for Catholic Leaders in Parishes, Schools, Religious Communities and Other Institutions*. Notre Dame: Ave Maria Press, 2013.

May, Rollo. *The Courage to Create*. New York: Norton, 1975.

Nouwen, Henri J. M. *A Spirituality of Fundraising*. Nashville: Upper Room Books, 2010.

O'Donohue, John. *Eternal Echoes: Celtic Reflections on Our Yearning to Belong*. New York: HarperCollins, 1999.

Rohr, Richard. *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Second Half of Life*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2011.

Rohr, Richard. *Letting Go: A Spirituality of Subtraction* [A series of eight retreat talks in 6 compact discs/7.5 hours]. Cincinnati: Franciscan Media, 1987.

Resources for Nonprofit Leadership

Annenberg Alchemy (“A free capacity building and leadership development program designed to assist small to midsize Los Angeles-based nonprofit organizations and their leaders”): <https://www.annenberg.org>.

Association of Fundraising Professionals (“Striving to stimulate a world of generosity and positive social good through fundraising best practice”): <https://apfglobal.org>.

BoardSource (“Empowering Boards and Inspiring Leadership”): <https://boardsource.org>.

The Goodman Center: Where Do-Gooders Learn to Do Better (“Stories are your single most powerful communication tool”): <https://www.thegoodmancenter.com>.

Loring, Sternberg & Associates (“Creating highly effective nonprofit organizations”): <http://www.loringsternberg.com>.