

# FROM THE PASTOR'S



## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time January 18, 2009 B

### WHAT YOUR MONEY MEANS AND HOW YOU SHOULD USE IT

Frank Hanna, author of the above mentioned book, was recently interviewed on EWTN. I got a copy of the book and read it. I found it most interesting and I believe anyone who reads the book will be blessed by doing so.

The author is a wealthy Catholic layman. At 33 years of age, he had made enough money to sustain him without having to work for the rest of his life. Then Hanna asked himself, "What am I to do with the rest of my life and with the money that I made?" In the Foreword of the book, he writes:

*"I have always liked what Socrates said about the unexamined life—that it was not worth living—and so I resolved that I would not spend my money and my energy and my time in an unexamined manner. But that meant I would have to spend a lot of time examining—money, my own life with money, and the lives and thoughts of others who had dealt with the concept of money. This book is the result of that examination.*

*In the end, money is an integral part of the world in which we live, and the failure to think about it clearly can easily lead to hazardous results. Conversely, the proper understanding and use of money can help us lead far more fulfilling lives than we might otherwise expect. In fact, a better understanding of our money can even help us achieve a richer and deeper appreciation of those things that money can't buy."*

The following is the Table of Contents of the book.

#### Part I WHAT YOUR MONEY MEANS

- Chapter 1 Money demands answers
- Chapter 2 The meaning of your money and mine
- Chapter 3 How much is enough?
- Chapter 4 *The fundamentals and non-essential wealth*
- Chapter 5 *Non-essential wealth* threatens those we love
- Chapter 6 *Non-essential wealth* threatens us, too
- Chapter 7 Money is good

#### Part II WHAT YOUR MONEY CALLS YOU TO BE

- Chapter 8 *Non-essential wealth* is for the needy
- Chapter 9 Virtue: the first vocation of those with money
- Chapter 10 Wealth creation: the second vocation of those with money

Chapter 11 Giving: the third vocation of those with money

Chapter 12 The best ways to give

Chapter 13 Let giving now be a school of virtue

Chapter 14 Begin today!

The next step: Tips for wise and effective giving

Ten rules of thumb for donors

Questions to ask

#### Quotes to reflect on

In his book, Hanna has many quotes from well-known and not so well-known people. The following are a sample of the quotes.

*"It is not he who has many possessions that you should call blessed: he more rightly deserves that name who knows how to use God's gifts wisely."*

Horace 65 B.C.

*"Many who seem to be struggling with adversity are happy; many amid great affluence are utterly miserable."*

Tacitus 100 A.D.

*"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."*

Winston Churchill

*"Some men are born to own, and can animate all their possessions. Others cannot: their owning is not graceful; seems to be a compromise of their character: they seem to steal their own dividends. They should own who can administer; not they who hoard and conceal; not they who, the greater proprietors they are, are only the greater beggars, but they whose work carves out work for more, opens a path for all."*

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

*"This then is held to be the duty of the man of wealth: to set an example of modest, unostentatious living, shunning display or extravagance; to provide moderately for the legitimate wants of those dependent on him; and, after doing so, to consider all surplus revenues which come to him simply as trust funds, which he is called upon to administer, and strictly bound as a matter of duty to administer in the manner which in his judgment is best calculated to produce the most beneficial results for the community—the man of wealth thus becoming the mere trustee and agent for his poorer brethren, bringing to their service his superior wisdom, experience, and ability to administer, doing for them better than they could or would do for themselves."*

Andrew Carnegie

After the above quote, Hanna states:

*“To ensure that I continue to live in accordance with this high call enunciated by Carnegie, I strive always to awaken and keep alive in my soul the virtues of public-spiritedness, honesty, humility, fairness, and temperance. I strive always to remind myself, even in the midst of the most intense business deals when millions of dollars are at stake that I am simply a steward and that I have my wealth so I may use it to meet genuine human needs fairly and efficiently.”*

*“Giving money to the government is like giving whiskey and car keys to a teenage boy.”*

P.J. O’Rourke, 1947

*“Many older wealthy families have learned to instill a sense of public service in their offspring. But newly affluent middle-class parents have not acquired this skill. We are using our children as symbols of leisure-class standing without building in safeguards against an overweening sense of entitlement—a sense of entitlement that may incline some young people more toward the good life than toward the hard work that, for most of us, makes the good life possible.”*

David Elkind, Psychologist

*“Non-essential wealth, particularly in the hands of the young, strangles humility and gratitude, and keeps charity and wisdom from ever blossoming in these souls. It can lead them to lives of profligacy, lawlessness, or even worse. No one would want to give those he loves the means to bring on themselves such consequences.”*  
Frank Hanna

*“The surest way to ruin a person who doesn’t know how to handle money is to give him some.”*

George Bernard Shaw

*“You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.”*

William Henry Boetcker (1873-1962)

### **Nine quotes of the author**

The following are some of the words of the author that spoke to me.

1. *“We need to find out what it means that you and I have money, and others do not.*

*Can it be that God or Providence or Chance merely intends to bestow on me the means to have greater ease and pleasure?*

*Have I been singled out by the universe to take it easy? If so, why?*

*What have I done to deserve to be pampered while others, not far from here, fall asleep hungry, or die destitute in the streets of Bangladesh?*

*Can that be the meaning of my money: that I have a good time while others suffer?”*

2. *“Understood correctly and chosen as an act of service, wealth creation can be as much a vocation as teaching or being a doctor.”*

3. *“It’s a privilege to be called to the noble work of the wealthy but it’s also a heavy responsibility not easily fulfilled.”*

4. *“That we have non-essential wealth is no accident: it was given to us—or we were allowed to earn it—for a reason: so that, as good stewards, we can use it for others.”*

5. *“But to keep your attitude toward your possessions from becoming grasping, you need to loosen your grip on some of it on a regular basis, and to do so cheerfully. You don’t have to believe in God to grasp the fundamental truth in the psalm: “Blessed is he that considereth the poor and needy: the Lord shall deliver him in the time of trouble.”*

6. *“Unfortunately, none of us are exempt from the tendency to view the things around us as simply ours, rather than as goods over which we serve only as trustees, charged with the duty to use them to provide our own fundamentals and the fundamentals of others. We have to fight this natural tendency to claim as absolutely our own the things we have.*

*I pray that I won’t succumb to this tendency, but I’ve also found that prayer is not sufficient; I’ve got to fight it daily. I’ve found that one of the best ways to do so is regularly to give some of my money away.*

*Only actually and regularly giving away some of our money fosters the spirit of detachment we’re all called to have toward the goods of the earth.*

7. *“I think that those of us who are creating wealth now need regularly to practice giving now, so that later we’ll have the strength of character and the virtue of generosity it will take to give away the greater amounts that our wealth creation will bring us.”*

8. *“Because non-essential wealth has been placed in our hands, we are responsible for ensuring that it is used now and after our death to bring about the universal destination of goods.”*

9. *“All of us, men and women, should heed the challenge that Harriot Hunt issued to the wives of the wealthy 150 years ago:*

*Daughters of inherited wealth, or accumulated labor! The wide door of philanthropy is open peculiarly to you! Your life-work lies beyond your threshold: your wealth has placed you above the sorrowful struggle for daily bread which takes up the whole time of so many of your*

*brothers and sisters. You are the almoners of God. A double accountability is yours.*”

Hanna’s \$22 book will be on sale next weekend for \$10.00. **Caveat:** Even though I recommend the book, I did not necessarily agree with everything - especially with all the items he included as fundamental for a decent life.

Next weekend at the end of all the Masses, you will have the opportunity to communicate with Senators Bill Nelson and Mel Martinez and Representative Bill Posey, concerning the *Freedom of Choice Act* (FOCA). If FOCA passes in Congress, President Obama has said he will sign it into law. What would FOCA do? The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops states that FOCA would:

- Eliminate regulations that protect women from unsafe clinics and unscrupulous abortionists.
- Force American taxpayers to fund abortions.
- Force every state to allow partial-birth abortion—its sponsors have said a primary purpose of the bill is to ensure that killing partially born children will again be permitted nationwide.
- Run roughshod over the conscience rights of physicians, nurses and hospitals that oppose abortion on religious, moral or ethical grounds.
- Strip parents of their right and responsibility to be involved in their minor daughter’s abortion decision.

Simply put, if FOCA becomes law, it will put at risk all the widely-supported laws that for 35 years have promoted women’s health, ensured informed consent, protected minors, ensured parental involvement, safeguarded rights of conscience, and respected the desire of most citizens not to support abortion with their tax dollars.

***FOCA is without doubt the most radical abortion legislation ever considered in the United States.***

The bishop’s letter will now follow on this.

Have a blessed week,



**Last year, the so called Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) was introduced in Congress. Had FOCA been passed, it would have created a “fundamental right” to abortion that government could not limit. FOCA would have overturned many existing widely-supported policies, including laws protecting parental involvement and conscience rights and those preventing partial-birth abortion and taxpayer funding of abortion. This legislation would have made abortion an ‘entitlement’ - and in this it would have far exceeded the Roe v. Wade decision that declared a constitutional “right” to abortion and invalidated anti-abortion laws in all 50 states.**

**However, in the aftermath of the recent elections, I fear that this coming year will bring new challenges to human life in this country and a renewed attempt by pro-abortion advocates within both the Administration and the Congress to enact FOCA, or a version of it, into law. The Bishops of our nation voted unanimously to mobilize the resources of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, our dioceses and the entire Catholic community to prevent either the passage of FOCA or the elimination of pro-life laws currently in place.**

**To facilitate this effort, our diocese in solidarity with dioceses across the country, will participate in a massive and inexpensive postcard campaign for the weekend of January 24-25, 2009 (at the time of the commemoration of the ill-considered Roe v. Wade decision) to communicate to Congress our concerns over this assault on human dignity and the right to life of the most vulnerable (i.e. the unborn).**

**Bishop Thomas Wenski**

**OUR BISHOPS ASK US TO WRITE TO OUR STATE REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSING OUR OPPOSITION TO THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE ACT**