

A WORK IN PROGRESS!

Last June I came across by chance a lovely man who I studied with in the seminary in the early 1980's. Over the last 30 years he has mainly worked as a *stonemason*. One of the things that I learnt in the conversation that I had with him was that sometimes it takes up to 20 heavy blows with a thick hammer to crack open a stone. The point that he made to me is that it really is not the 20'th blow that cracks open the stone but also the many previous blows that have to be struck.

He gave me some great food for thought about life's virtues and vices! So often when a person creates a virtuous reputation it's because of the simple routines they establish in their manner of speech, their levels of courtesy and their consistent habits of honesty. These same habits are often absent when someone does not have a virtuous reputation!

Recently I read where the former American first lady Michelle Obama say, "*that whenever anyone takes on a position of authority it does not change who they are, rather it reveals who they are!*" Consistency in what people do and say definitely has consequences to ignore this is to be foolish.

One of my favourite psalms is Psalm 19, I never tire of reflecting on these true, wise words; "*day unto day takes up the story while night unto night makes known the message.*" Fr Martin R Maunsell