

COMMITTEES –their limitations!

A while ago a good priest friend of mine said to me that while he was doing post graduate studies in Rome he regularly helped serve at a homeless center just outside of the Vatican City. My friend told me how pleasantly surprised he was to see a number of Vatican based cardinals, archbishops and bishops doing the same thing all dressed unusually in casual clothes!

After seeing this my friend said to me how he now took more seriously the official Church statements some of these men now published on issues like charity and social justice. They actually made real the words of Pope Francis *“that shepherds are meant to have on them the smell of the sheep.”*

Of course committees in any organization have their place but they need always to be seen as a means towards a practical end and never just as a means of sustaining an organization. At the end of our lives we will all define ourselves for the better or for the worse by the credibility of our actions far more than our plans and actions. The challenge to remember this and make it happen is before us all!

Jesus of Nazareth also had something to say about this reality in these words; *“It’s not those who say to me, ‘Lord, Lord.’ who will enter the kingdom of heaven but those who do the will of my father in heaven.”* (Matthew Ch. 7, verse 21-22) - Fr Martin R Maunsell