

The Mouse, The World: Secular Faith for Millions

The purpose of this workshop is to share observations regarding Walt Disney's accomplishments and how his Vision has become part of a set of core values for millions. Ways chaplains can apply these core values follow. Discussion will follow.

Exploring some "Core Values" as seen in Disney's World:

1. Some history of Roy and Walt and their root values
2. Providing opportunities to experience happiness, joy
3. How the themes of characters, movies, music, parks, etc. have shaped values
4. "Welcome Home"
5. "Family Values"
6. The key: Ultimate Service
7. Cast Members: Caring, Friendly, Neat, Clean, Useful, Sincere, Smiling
8. Value and respect each person, culture, tradition
9. Care for those with special needs
10. Seek universal values, share them in a positive manner
11. Visions for the future: technology, greening, one global community, "to infinity and beyond"

Applying Disney's Vision and Values to Chaplaincy care

- #1. Provide ultimate service
2. Be universal in approach and outreach
3. Care and provide for everyone, using their own beliefs and values
4. Hear the story through the patient/family vision
5. Turn the complex into simple, find the innocence, care for the child
6. Appeal to the heart, the hope: seek happiness
7. Have faith in self, have faith in something greater than self
8. Love what you do, love how you do it
9. Be joyful, flexible, creative, and visionary

Excerpts from Recommended Readings:

1. Gabler, Neal, *Walt Disney The Triumph of The American Imagination*, Knoph:NY, 2006, 633pp. ISBN 0-679 -43822-X

"(Walt Disney's influence) can only be measured by how thoroughly he reshaped the culture and the American consciousness." xii

"Urban planner James W. Rouse commended Disneyland as the 'greatest piece of urban design in the United States' for the way it managed to serve its function and satisfy its guests." xiii

"(Disney) changed American's view of their own history, (of) patriotism—(an) avatar of small-town, flag-waving America. xiii

"His forward-looking television programs depicting the future helped shape attitudes about technological change." xiii

“Disney helped sensitize the public to environmental issues.” xiv

“One source of Disney’s magic was his ability to mediate between past and future, tradition and iconoclasm, the rural and the urban, the individual and the community, even between conservatism and liberalism.” xv

“The most powerful source of his appeal as well as his greatest legacy may be that Walt Disney, more than any other American artist, defined the terms of wish fulfillment and demonstrated on a grand scale to his fellow Americans, and ultimately to the entire world, how one could be empowered by fantasy--how one could learn, in effect, to live within one’s own illusions and even to transform the world into those illusions.” xv

2. Lane, Anthony, *Wonderful World What Disney Made*, *The New Yorker*, December 11 2006, pp 66-75. (a commentary based on Gabler’s biography)

“Disney was America’s sorcerer-in-residence, and what we have yet to measure is the strength of his potions’ aftereffects.” 66

“In every job that must be done There is an element of fun; You find the fun, and---snap---The job’s a game! The work ethic transmuted, with a click of the fingers, into a lark: what better alchemy for an America ineluctably on the rise? 75

3. Pinsky, Mark I., *The Gospel According to Disney Faith, Trust, and Pixie Dust*, Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, London, 2004, 267pp. ISBN 0-664-22591-8

“There is a consistent set of moral and human values ---which together constitute a “Disney gospel”. This gospel reflects the personal vision of Walt Disney and the company he shaped in his image ---. Good is always rewarded; evil is always punished. Faith is an essential element---faith in yourself and even more, faith in something *greater* than yourself, some higher power. Optimism and hard work complete the basic canon. xi-xii

“---the reluctance to make organized religion a significant part of the fabric (of film) mirrored Walt’s early concerns: fear of offending and fear of excluding.” xiii

“The individual Disney films act as characters in the Disney book on what the world looks like or should look like” from *Annalee R. Ward, Mouse Morality: The Rhetoric of Disney Animated Film* xiii

“The day Disneyland opened in 1955, Walt Disney said that he hoped his creation would be ‘a source of joy and inspiration to all the world’.” 229

“These children (of various cultures) clearly received and understood *Brother Bear’s* messages--love, forgiveness, brotherhood---from a culture far different from their own. This is the realization of Walt’s dream, to communicate lessons to children across cultures.” 225

Join the fun, attend this workshop: **The Mouse, The World: A Secular Faith or Millions**