



For small businesses

AUGUST

“We pray for small and medium sized businesses; in the midst of economic and social crisis, may they find ways to continue operating, and serving their communities”



PRAYER INTENTION REFLECTION

PASTORAL VISIT TO GENOA

ENCOUNTER WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WORLD OF WORK¹⁰

Francis

27 May 2017

The businessman is a key figure in any good economy: there is no good economy without a good entrepreneur. There is no good business without good entrepreneurs, without your ability to create, to create jobs, to create products. [...] It is important to recognize the virtues of workers. Their need - workers - is the need to work well so that the job is done well. Sometimes it is thought that a worker works well just because he is paid: this is a serious disrespect towards workers and labour as it denies the dignity of work, which begins precisely in working well for dignity, for honour. The true manager - I will try to make the profile of a good manager - the real manager knows his workers, because he works alongside them, he works with them. Let's not forget that the entrepreneur must be first of all a worker. If he does not have this experience of dignity, he will not be a good manager. He shares the workers' efforts and shares the joys of work, of solving problems together, of creating something together. If and when he has to lay off someone, this is always a painful decision and he would not do it if possible. No good manager likes to lay off his people - no, he who thinks he can solve the problem of his job by firing people, is not a good entrepreneur, he is a trader, who sells his people today and tomorrow sells his dignity. He always suffers, and sometimes from this suffering new ideas emerge to avoid dismissal. This is the good entrepreneur. I remember, almost a year ago, a little less, at Mass at Santa Marta at 7 am, at the exit I was greeting the people who were there, and a man approached. He was crying. He said, "I came to ask for a grace: I am at the limit and I have to make a statement of bankruptcy. That would mean firing sixty workers, and I do not want to, because I feel like I am firing myself". And that man was crying. He was a good manager. He fought and prayed for his people because they were "his": "They are my family". They were attached to one another.

¹⁰ See full message:

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2017/may/documents/papa-francesco_20170527_lavoratori-genova.html

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➤ 21 August 2022 – World Entrepreneurs' Day

April 2018

<https://thepopevideo.org/for-those-who-have-responsibility-in-economic-matters/>

October 2017

<https://thepopevideo.org/rights-of-workers-and-the-unemployed/>