

EAST CENTRAL REGION, ACPE

INDIANA, KENTUCKY, MICHIGAN, OHIO & PITTSBURGH, PA.

www.ecr-acpe.org

September 2002

FRANKLY SPEAKING

WHAT'S IN THERE?

I believe it was Michelangelo who described the process of sculpting by saying that the statue was already there, in the block of marble; all the sculptor does is chip away all the excess stone—everything that is not the statue. Of course there is a profound truth in this statement, absurdly simple as it sounds. It is not, however, quite as simple as that for anyone to produce a statue like Michelangelo's *David*. The sculptor brings more to her or his task than a hammer and chisel. The real genius of the sculptor lies more in the vision by which she or he sees what is in the block of marble. In the same chunk of stone that became *David* in the hands of Michelangelo, others might also have seen a statue of Moses or Buddha, or the Titanic for that matter. Others, with no artistic vision, might have cut up the same block of marble for paving stones.

The principle that underlies Michelangelo's description of the process of sculpting can apply to almost any creative function. For example, one could say that for millions of years, the beautiful gothic cathedrals of Europe lay buried in the limestone pits of Germany and France, waiting for skilled artisans to free them from the earth and place them in their proper locations. This, of course, does not simplify the task of building cathedrals. It may be simple to characterize this process, but the accomplishment required planning, financing, political wrangling, theological debate, the work of architects, artisans, laborers, and overseers. The task took decades, and in some cases, centuries to accomplish.

The key element here is vision. Only a Michelangelo looks at a block of marble and sees *David*. Not everyone who looks at a limestone pit sees a cathedral. True enough, many skills and much labor will be needed to transform the vision into a statue of a cathedral, but without the vision, no amount of skill, labor, money or desire will result in the creation of such beauty.

What a metaphor this is for the potential in our lives. Human beings begin their lives as bundles of potential. We are provided with a body and a brain; we are placed in an environment; we receive some degree of care in infancy and childhood; we become educated—formally and informally. All these ingredients represent the "block of marble" that is us. What can we make of all that? What do we see when we look at ourselves, our potential?

How far we go in life, what we contribute, how much satisfaction we experience in life has to do with how much and what kind of vision we can bring to bear on the potential that exists in us. We can look at "our block of marble" and see the possibility of making a living, and little else: Forty hours a week of labor, with nights, weekends and vacations off; a home, food and bed till we retire, and eventually die. This is one vision of life. But we can also see in our raw material, a vision of a goal we wish to reach, a contribution we want to make, a quality of life we want to achieve. This is clear to us in arts. We see the vision and dedication that produces a great musician or painter. It is also true of each one of us. One of the great challenges of life is to discover what we are made of. What is locked in this block of marble, this bundle of potential that is me?

Need I point out that this is very much to the point of clinical pastoral education? Our work is to enable students in ministry to know themselves as fully as possible; to discover what potential has been given them as a result of the unique combination of body, brain, environment and education they bring to the task.

When I first conceived the idea of this article, I thought I would suggest that supervisors are like sculptors, chipping away at our students, to expose the beauty and destiny they possess. But it is clear to me that the sculptors are the students themselves. This is the point at which the metaphor becomes inadequate. This is a journey of self-discovery. As supervisors, we can hand the students a chisel, or make a suggestion, or ask a question—but the vision must be theirs, and the task of accomplishing it is also theirs.

Standing in the presence of great works of art is an awesome experience. We feel the sacredness of vision, the genius, the skill that produces such beauty and power. Do we not feel that same sense of the sacred when we see students discover themselves and unlock beauty and power from within themselves that neither they nor we could have guessed? This is the profound nature of the process in which we engage everyday.

Collegially,
Frank



Job Opportunities:

- CHANDLER MEDICAL CENTER - UNIVERSITY OF KY HOSPITAL - Lexington, KY. Two new staff chaplaincy positions will be available presently. The first position is for a fulltime NIGHT chaplain (Midnight - 8am). The second position is 1/2 time, primarily days (with some occasional evening or weekend coverage) to assist with direct patient services and with orientation for and mentoring of ACPE students. Requirements: Master of Divinity Degree (or equivalent), four units of ACPE completed successfully, recognition and/or standing in a recognized faith group, eligible or in process with APC certification, organizational skills and ability to work independently and as a team player in an interfaith setting. This is a trauma, adult and children's hospital at the heart of a large University Campus. Lexington is an attractive city with much to offer. Salary will be based on market research and adjusted by the HR Department based on experience and qualifications. For further information (including how to access our web page), please contact: Rev. Donna Farrar, Chandler Medical Center - UK Hospital, 800 Rose Street, Lexington, KY 40536-0293. Phone: 859-323-5301; Fax: 859-323-1743; e-mail: dbfarr2@pop.uky.edu

There is also one ACPE residency position still available for this academic year. Please apply ASAP.

Calendar of Events

- **September 20-21, 2002** - Pastoral Care Associates conference - Brown County, Nashville IN
- **February 21-22, 2003** - East Central Region, ACPE Annual Meeting - Hueston Woods, College Corner, OH.

Supervisory Education in the Region

Supervisory Candidates

Ruth Alpers
Carrie Cullen
Jim Mitchell
Jon Paulus
Tim Waits
Pat Shelden-Ward
Yoshiya Togami

Officers of the Region

Frank Ciampa, Director
Mary Altenbaumer, Certification
Kim Barnett, Accreditation
Urias Beverly, Nominations
Billie Beverly, Regional Secretary
Alan Bowman, Board of Reps
Larry Brandon, Budget & Investment
Carl Buxo, Professional Ethics/REM

Carol Green, Board of Reps
Ted Hodge, Chair
Robert Leas, History
Jeannette Lucas, Standards
BJ Myers-Bradley, Clinical Members
Kathy Nininger, Chair Elect
Larry Smith, Long Range Planning
Henry Uy, Research