

March 22

St. Benvenute Scotivoli of Osimo

A good question to ask ourselves is what motivates us to respond to the responsibilities bestowed upon us? Many today are driven by results. Effort is good and appreciated, but it is only results that move a project forward. There are those who are motivated by money. It is not unusual for a young person to say they want to be rich when posed the motivation question. Often, it seems like the singular purpose of his/her life. Then there are those motivated by power. Not so much for personal aggrandizement, but for the purposes of bringing about positive change.

Our company we are entertaining today, Benvenute of Osimo, was genuinely motivated by the gospel. Though he was born into a wealthy family, blessed with an excellent education, and recognized by Church officials as a virtuous man with exceptional administrative skills, none of those gifts turned his motivation away from living a spiritual life.

Before he was ordained Bishop of Osimo, he sought to safeguard his motivations. He requested that he be clothed in the Franciscan habit and committed himself to living the Franciscan values of poverty, humility, penance and prayer. Instead of adopting the clothing proper to the Office of Bishop, he decided to wear the friar habit frequently throughout his thirteen years as bishop. These spiritual choices helped him to keep his focus centered on leading with wisdom.

God has entrusted each of us with some calling and responsible service. While it may not be for positions of notoriety or leadership, we are all called to build situations that enliven the aspirations of others. To misuse our authority, power, education or any gift with which we have been blessed, is to suffer a spiritual amnesia, and thus open up for ourselves motivations contrary to gospel living. What necessary practices do we need to begin that will help us fulfill our responsibilities to goals? What values will keep our motivations honest?

Let us pray.

Touch me, O Lord, and fill me with your light and hope with which you blessed St. Benvenute of Osimo. Give me strength when I am weak, love when I feel forsaken, courage when I am afraid, wisdom when I feel foolish, comfort when I am alone, hope when I feel rejected, and peace when I am in turmoil. Amen.

Benvenute is a friend of God and the company we welcome today.

