

Reflection Thursday Week 2 – 2022

The story about Saul, Jonathan and David reminds us of the corruptibility of Power. As the saying goes: *Power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely!* Power is not a possession but a gift and a responsibility. Saul's power as king was gifted to him by God through Samuel. It was a gift and responsibility to serve and protect his people. The same applies to all walks of life especially to teachers, clergy and hierarchy. Pope Francis recognises this. He chooses to live as simply as he can, to help local hierarchies make decisions for their people and not to dictate from on high.

Pope Francis: *Our desire for power is expressed in many ways in the life of the Church; for example, when we believe, by virtue of the role we have, that we have to make decisions on all aspects of the life of our association, of the diocese, of the parish, of the congregation. We fall into the trap of treachery when we present ourselves to others as the only interpreters of the charism, the only heirs of our association or movement ... or when, deeming ourselves indispensable, we do everything to cover lifelong positions; or when we pretend to decide a priori who should be our successor ... No one is master of the gifts received for the good of the Church ... no one must suffocate them.*

Pope Francis knew a man whose 9-year-old daughter was sick. The doctors were convinced she was about to die. The man travelled to the Basilica of Our Lady of Luján and prayed outside all night, *"fighting for the health of his daughter."* When he returned to the hospital, he found his wife smiling because their daughter suddenly improved. Francis said. *"Prayer works miracles because prayer goes straight to the centre of the tenderness of God who loves us like a father. And when he does not give us the grace" of what was asked for in prayer, "he gives us another, which we will see over time."*

A concerned parent calls their child's paediatrician and says, "Recently my child has started eating power cords. What should I do?" Without missing a beat, the doctor responds, *"depending on the current situation at home you need to ground him until he can conduct himself appropriately!"*