



Moreau
PROGRAM

Session 5: Dignity

Agenda

1. Measuring value
2. Gold stars and self worth
3. *Sic transit gloria mundi*
4. Moreau Peer Leader (MPL) testimonial
5. Group discussion: failure
6. Group discussion of Temple, Nouwen, and Sims
7. Group discussion: small things can be big

For Next Time

1. Read Fujimura, “Art and Faith”
2. Read Angelou, “And Still I Rise”
3. Watch refraction video from Laura Miller-Graff
4. Co-Curricular activities:
 - a. Connect Retreat
<https://moreaufirstyear.nd.edu/co-curricular-learning/co-curricular-events/connect-retreat-w-campus-ministry/>
(September 26-27) (also
 - b. Dead Man Walking film discussion
<https://moreaufirstyear.nd.edu/co-curricular-learning/co-curricular-events/dead-man-walking-film-and-discussion-w-prof-mattison/> (September 28)
 - c. Dangers of Digital Dignity
<https://moreaufirstyear.nd.edu/co-curricular-learning/co-curricular-events/dangers-of-digital-dignity-w-prof-arner-and-moreau-peer-leaders/> (October 2)

What is more valuable?

- Basket A:
 - Macbook Pro: \$1200
 - Smart phone: \$400
 - Electric scooter: \$300
- Basket B:
 - HP laptop: \$500
 - Flip phone: \$100
 - Non-electrical scooter: \$100

What is more valuable?

- Financial security A:
 - Face value of \$1000
 - Guaranteed annual coupon payments of \$100
 - Discount rate of 5%
 - 10 years to maturity
- Financial security B:
 - Face value of \$1000
 - Expected annual coupon payments of \$100
 - Discount rate of 5%
 - 30 percent chance of default within five years
 - 10 years to maturity

What is more valuable as a potential employee?

- Person A:
 - Graduated from Princeton with 3.94 GPA
 - Majored in Economics
 - Speaks three languages
 - Was captain of the rowing team
- Person B:
 - Graduated from Ball State with a 2.97 GPA
 - Majored in leisure studies
 - Doesn't speak a foreign language
 - Was involved in her sorority

Who is more valuable as a person?

- Person A:
 - Graduated from Princeton with 3.94 GPA
 - Majored in Economics
 - Speaks three languages
 - Was captain of the rowing team
- Person B:
 - Graduated from Ball State with a 2.97 GPA
 - Majored in leisure studies
 - Doesn't speak a foreign language
 - Was involved in her sorority

Your value as a human being
 \neq
Sum of your accomplishments

Gold Stars and Self-Worth

- Our modern society teaches us that our value, our dignity, derives from our accomplishments. This is utilitarianism
- Accomplishments (gold stars!) are not bad. In fact, they're good!
- Utilitarianism is itself not bad, and is probably a good way to make policy decisions at an aggregate level
- But if you base your individual self-worth on your accomplishments, you're setting yourself up for misery
 - There's always another accomplishment
 - There's always going to be somebody "better"
 - The "highs" from accomplishment get smaller and less persistent
 - We spend a lot more time on the side of the mountain (or in the valley) than at the top!

Sic transit gloria mundi

Patton: [link](#)

What are your primary goals in life?



Mine?

1. Get to Heaven

2. Leave the world a better place than I found it

Moreau Peer Leader Testimonial

Beating the Rat Race

Small-Group Discussion: Normalizing Failure

Describe a situation in which you have failed in the last 6-12 months

- 1. How did it make you feel?*
- 2. How have you grown from that experience?*

Group Discussion

1. Temple, *“What’s Best for Them?”*
2. Noewen, *“Life of the Beloved”*
3. Sims *refraction video*

Group Discussion:

*“small things can be **big**”*

What is some small thing that you could be better at or more regularly do?

- 1. How might this small act impact others?*
- 2. How might this small act impact you?*