

DEVELOPING OUR GIFTS

Author and pastor Gary Inrig, in *A Call to Excellence*, tells the following story:

Bertoldo de Giovanni is a name even the most enthusiastic lover of art is unlikely to recognize. He was the pupil of Donatello, the greatest sculptor of his time, and he was the teacher of Michelangelo, the greatest sculptor of all time. Michelangelo was only 14 years old when he came to Bertoldo, but it was already obvious that he was enormously gifted.

Bertoldo was wise enough to realize that gifted people are often tempted to coast rather than to grow, and therefore he kept trying to pressure his young prodigy to work seriously at his art.

One day, he came into the studio to find Michelangelo toying with a piece of sculpture far beneath his abilities. Bertoldo grabbed a hammer, stomped across the room, and smashed the work into tiny pieces, shouting this unforgettable message: "Michelangelo, talent is cheap, dedication is costly!"

For those of us engaged in the mission of Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home, God has endowed us with talents to be used in the care of His frail and infirm children, our residents. But they must be developed through dedication and commitment.

Have you discovered these special skills God has given you?

If so, then dedicate them to Him. It is the first step toward using your gifts for His glory.

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them (Romans 12:6).

--Beecher Hunter