

The Curve in the Road

A riveting story about human nature and social justice was told by the late Rev. Monsignor Francis X. Meehan, pastor emeritus of Saints Simon and Jude Parish in West Chester, Pa.



Once there was a farming town that could be reached only by a narrow road with a bad curve in it.

There were frequent accidents on the road, especially at the curve, and the preacher would preach to the people of the town to make sure they were Good Samaritans.

And so they were. They would pick up the people on the road who had suffered mishaps, for this was religious work.

One day, someone suggested they buy an ambulance to get the accident victims to the town hospital more quickly. The preacher preached and the people gave, for this was a religious work.

Then one day, a councilman suggested that the town authorize building a wider road and taking out the dangerous curve. Now it happened that the mayor had a farmer's market right at the curve on the road, and he was against taking out the curve.

Someone asked the preacher to say a word to the mayor and the congregation next Sunday about it. But the preacher and most of the people figured they had better stay out of politics.

So next Sunday, the preacher preached on the Good Samaritan gospel and encouraged the people to continue their fine work of picking up the accident victims – which they did.

A couple of questions ...

1. How many projects that would affect the public good are derailed because of personal agendas?
2. How often have you heard that politics and religion (or faith) should not be mixed?

Sadly, in our society today, we see too much of the first and not enough of the latter.

– Beecher Hunter