

Faithful Stewardship: Insights from Values-Driven Organizations for the Administration of Church Goods

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The Challenge of Organizational Reductionism

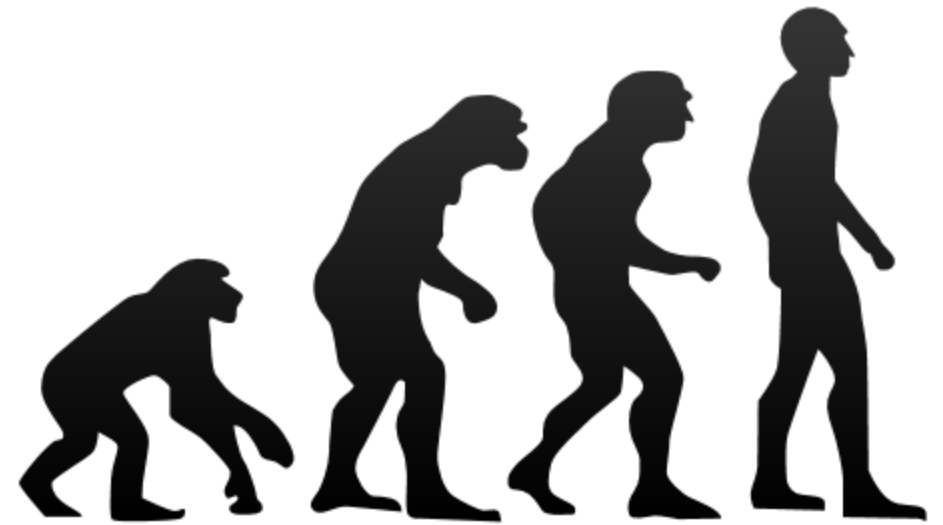
Economics often overlooks organizations beyond capitalistic enterprises.

Danger of treating all organizations as the same (schools = hospitals = corporations).

The Chimpanzee Analogy

Like the 2% DNA difference between humans and chimpanzees, crucial distinctions exist between organizations.

It's the small differences that matter.



Introducing Value-Based Organizations (VBOs)



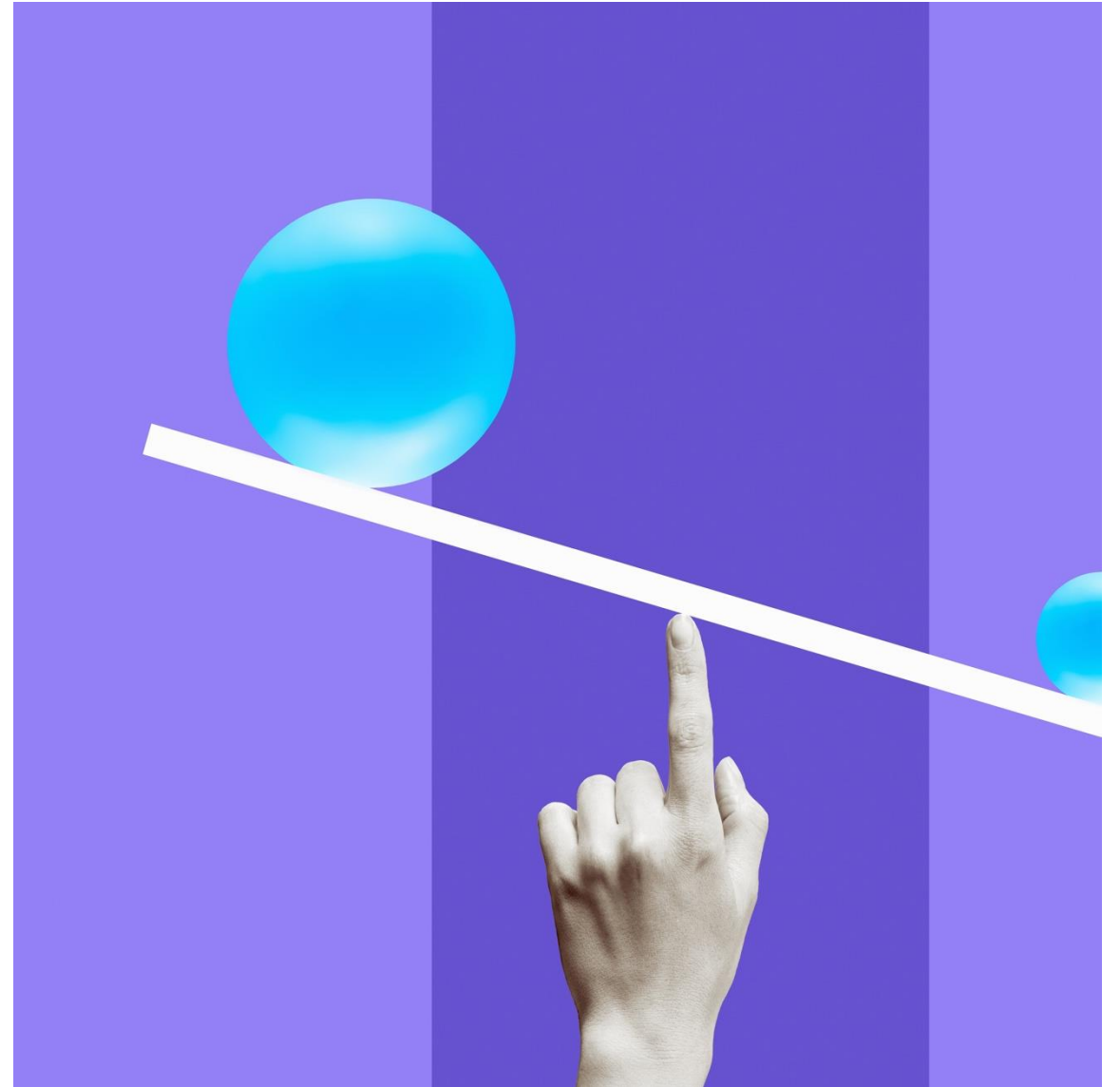
VBOs arise from strong ideals, missions, or vocations driven by intrinsic motivations.

Key Characteristic: Grounded in gratuitousness (acting because it's good, not just for material gain).

The Economic Imperative for VBOs

1. Gratuitousness vs. Economic Neglect

- VBOs are *born* from gratuitousness and ideals, *not* economic motives.
- However, economic sustainability is crucial for growth, longevity, and avoiding scandal.



The Economic Imperative for VBOs

2. The Case of Ananias and Sapphira

Economic problems can undermine even the most idealistic communities.

- The story from Acts 5:1-11
- The importance of managing resources and avoiding corruption.



Rethinking the Market: A Civil Economy Perspective

1. The Common (Negative) View of the Market

- A place of exploitation, self-interest, and lack of trust



Rethinking the Market: A Civil Economy Perspective

2. Antonio Genovesi and Civil Economy

- Genovesi- the founder of civil economy.
- Market as a place of mutual aid, reciprocity, and mutual advantage.

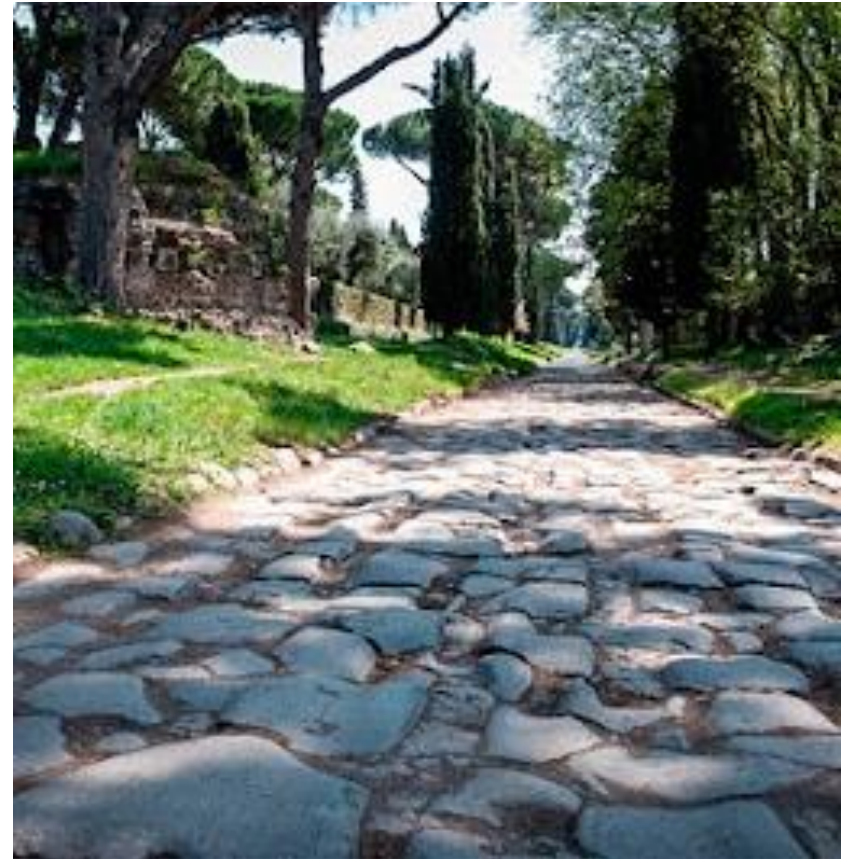


The Importance of Civil Virtues

- Genovesi's quote about the Appian Way:

"The most beautiful, wide, solid road...if it is infested by fear, slavery, rage, avarice, penance, misery, you will not even see beasts pass through it."

- Infrastructure is useless without moral foundations.
- A good market is built on moral and civil virtues.



The Challenges of Sustainability

1. The Primary Objective of a VBO

- Grow and develop *without* losing ideal motivations.
- Key Question: How to live the ideals, last over time, *and* be economically sustainable?



The Challenges of Sustainability

2. The Multi-Dimensionality of Sustainability



The Challenges of Sustainability

3. Balancing Economic Sustainability and Human Values

- It's not *simple*, but it's *not impossible*.
- The role of good management and planning.



Good Management Principles for VBOs

1. Defining Management

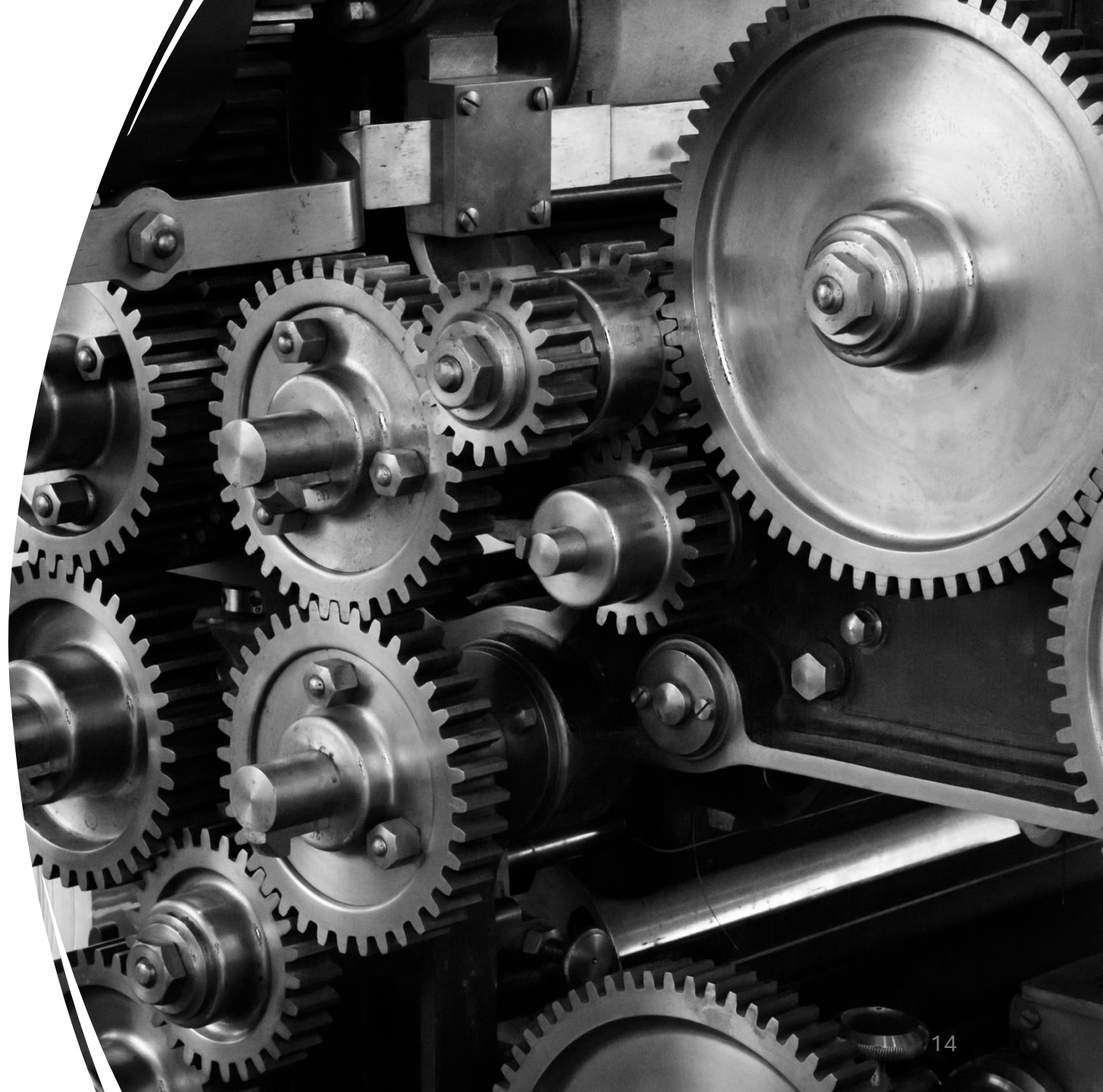
- Management comes from the Latin "gerere," meaning "to conduct."
- To conduct well, you must have a clear goal.
- Be aware of where you want to lead in the medium to long term.



Good Management Principles for VBOs

2. Avoiding Two Common Errors

- Error 1: Seeking efficiency at all costs, risking the loss of ideals.
- Error 2: Believing that goodwill is enough, fearing that management stifles ideals.



Good Management Principles for VBOs

3. The Secret of Good Management

- Teamwork and Shared Leadership.
- Activate procedures that guarantee teamwork.
- Ensure the organization can thrive even when individuals change.



1. Planning and Prevention

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Practical Considerations for Sustainability and Development

2. Reporting and Financial Statements

- Historical Context: Reporting in Benedictine Abbeys as a sign of attention to Providence.
- Call for Transparency: Manage goods transparently, in compliance with laws, and in service of the poor.

Practical Considerations for Sustainability and Development

3. Transparency and Supervision

- Transparency is fundamental for the mission's efficiency and effectiveness.
- Supervision: Not a lack of trust, but a service to communion and transparency.



Practical Considerations for Sustainability and Development

4. Finance and Ethical Investing

- Good financial management balances cash flows to avoid debt.
- Responsibility to invest ethically.
- Call to Action: Avoid complicity in an "economy of exclusion and inequity."



Practical Considerations for Sustainability and Development

5. Sustainable and Responsible Investment (SRI)

- Definition: Integrate financial analysis with environmental, social, and governance analysis.
- Explanation: Exclusion criteria and ranking of share/stock based on ESG factors.





Conclusion

We need a Church that witnesses to the good use of money, that is transparent in its management, that is aware that its choices in the economic field can determine not only the **continuity** of its works over time but also the quality of its '**being there**' in service of the **poorest and weakest**.

THANK YOU!

