

The theme for today is change. I have two points I want to make. I can make them clearer if I can have two volunteers to play a graduate version of "Let's Make a Deal". You will win a prize, you each will win a prize. Preferably a boy and a girl. Let's hear a round of applause for our two contestants.

What are your names? I'm going to ask you a question. If you get the answer right, you get your choice of these two prizes. And the other prize goes to you. First let me tell you about our wonderful prizes. I cannot tell you what's inside here, but I will give you a clue. In this envelope there is money. Cash. I won't tell you how much. In this package there is either a popular album, or the keys to a pink cadillac. I won't tell you which. All you have to do is get the answer right. If you're wrong, you get to choose. Also, it's all right to get help from the audience. I know this is supposed to be a formal occasion tonight, but could you forget about that for a minute and help out our contestants if they need it?

Are you ready for your question? I'm holding here the current issue of Billboard Magazine. I want you to tell me what is the name of the number one song and the artist who sings it on this week's top one hundred chart.

Now, you get your choice of prize. Would you like the envelope with the money or the package with either the album or the car? Which should s/he take? Let's open the package first. You can sit down. Let's hear it for our contestant.

There are two points I want to make about changes. The first is that there are some things you cannot change. Life is going to hand you a surprise package. You can't always change what's inside the package. It may be ~~a~~ ^{something} wonderful ~~gift~~ -- an inheritance, or the renewal of your faith; or it may be ~~a~~ ^{something} tragedy -- you may lose a job, or someone you love may die. Some things you cannot change; and when they happen, the only thing you can change is you. We need to be versatile with life; we need to be switch hitters who can handle whatever pitcher comes to the belt.

The other point I want to make is related to what's inside this envelope. You can open it now. What's there? \$3.35. Do you know what that is? Minimum wage. There's good news and there's bad news about that money. The bad news is it's not very much money, and that's all you going to win tonight. The good news is that it reminds me of a story which I know you'll all love to hear. You can sit down, too. Here, I'll give you a copy of Billboard magazine. Let's hear it for our second contestant.

This is a very unusual story because the hero is a priest. Believe me I save as many of these as I can find. I mean, even in the Bible, you got the Good Samaritan, it's the priest who does nothing for the victim. But what do you expect? The guy was already robbed, there was nothing for the priest to do? There are fewer stories about good priests than there even are about good brothers.

Here's the story: In 1912 there was no minimum wage law in this country. In Oregon factory workers earned 15 cents an hour for a 50-hour week. Our hero--we'll call him Fr. Ed--drafted for the first time in history a minimum wage law and the Oregon legislature bought it. A couple years later we meet Frank. Frank is foreman at a paper box factory. Frank thinks his work-

ers get too much money: 16 cents an hour for a 54 hour week. So he takes Fr. Ed to court. Fr. Ed wins. Frank appeals to the circuit court. Fr. Ed wins. Frank appeals to the Oregon State Supreme Court. Fr. Ed wins. Frank appeals to the United States Supreme Court. On April 9, 1917, Fr. Ed won again and so did the workers of America. Minimum wage was here to stay. When you work this summer, I want you to remember there's a priest responsible for your wage. His name is Edwin Vincent O'Hara.

There are two points to this homily. One is there are some things you cannot change. The other is there are some things you must change. Now I want to tell you graduates something. The world is already teaching you its own values. People want money. People want fashion. People are selfish. People use other people and then throw them away. Jesus says, "Store up for yourselves heavenly treasure. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Don't worry about what to wear, what to eat, or where your money comes from. Seek first God's kingship, and everything else will be given you."

There are things you must change and first among them is the values of the world. Stamp out inequality, root out racism, squelch consumerism. Seek first God's kingship. And remember O'Hara. Not just the school, but the man who made a difference because he changed the way people think about justice. And you, graduates of 1988, you must do the same.

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