

Renewing Mission and Identity in Catholic Business Education

University of Dayton, Ohio, June 18-20, 2012

by Rev. Karen Schuder



With support from the Sandbulte Endowment I was blessed to represent the CSS School of Business and Technology at the 8th International Conference on Catholic Social Thought and Management Education at the University of Dayton in June. The theme of the conference was "Renewing Mission and Identity in Catholic Business Education" with an emphasis on integrating ethics and applying Catholic Social Thought principles to business school curriculums. Individuals from more than 23 countries participated in speeches, research presentations, and discussions focused on the integration of ethics and social principles in business education.

Cardinal Peter Turkson set the tone for the conference by urging Catholic business schools to work from the perspective of understanding business as a way to participate in God's creative work and serve the common good. Business, he explained, is an expression of solidarity calling us to commit to the present and future well-being of the world. On behalf of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Cardinal Turkson presented the *Vocation of the Business Leader: A Reflection*. This writing is significant because it shows the Pontificate's acknowledgement of business leadership as a vocation and encourages business professionals to work with an ethic based on Catholic Social Thought.

An extensive variety of speeches and presentations filled each day. Presenting my research on the integration of ethics in business schools among so many distinguished scholars was a tremendous honor. It was encouraging to meet so many people from different backgrounds, educational institutions and places who have a heart for integrating ethics into what they teach. Some additional highlights include:

- Listening to a panel of business school deans discuss the challenges of helping Catholic institutions renew their Catholic identity while remaining open to diversity.
- Talking with faculty from Hungary and the Ukraine about the challenges of teaching business ethics amidst the corruption and apathy following Soviet influence.
- Meeting a Nigerian faculty member who teaches business ethics to more than 1,000 students each class.
- Hearing from a former high level business executive about his passion to teach business ethics and develop ethics based work groups for business executives.
- Learning from a Spanish educator about the cooperative efforts between Protestants and Catholics in Europe, as well as the importance of service learning in business education at Universitat Ramon Lull in Barcelona, Spain.

More information:

- [Catholic Social Thought Principles](#) - as articulated by Catholic Charities USA
- [Conference Website](#) - access papers and summaries of work presented
- [Vocation of the Business Leader: A Reflection by the Pontifical Council for Justice & Peace](#)