

.....Continued from last week

Worse than just ignoring the weekend ourselves, we also gave our weekends away. Requests to use our pulpit to raise money for missions or special collections, or anything else, were always favourable received and gladly given.

Really, anybody could show up in or lobby and make it all about them and their deal: the Girl Scouts sold cookies, the youth group sold cakes, the Knights of Columbus solicited new members, and the ladies Club promoted their fashion show. And of course, whatever they were doing inevitably involved plastering promotional posters on the front doors and annoying people with announcements after Communion.

One of the most important strategic decisions we made was to declare war on distractions and focus our staff and resources on the weekend-from the perspective of *lost people*.

We just decided to stop doing a lot of things we had been doing and instead concentrate on the weekend. Pope Saint John Paul II very simply taught that the Eucharist builds the Church. The Church is formed and grows through the Eucharist, and mature Catholics understand what they are giving and what they are given in the Eucharist. They rightly hold the Eucharist as the "gift par excellence." In it, they are nourished and grow as disciples.

Taken from: *Rebuilt*, by Fr. Michael White and Tome Corcoran.