

Father Ernest Bartell, CSC: An Appreciation

From Abe Lowenthal

Over the years, I have thought a lot about academic institution-building and about the qualities that make for success in that particular form of entrepreneurship. This work requires energizing vision; a capacity to keep both macro-vision and mundane detail firmly in mind at all times; the ability to inspire colleagues and bridge differences among them; the salesperson's ability to attract customers for a product that does not yet quite exist and probably will not without customer enthusiasm; and a delicate balance of stoic patience, annoying persistence and sometimes irksome impatience. Ernie Bartell has all these qualities, plus the ability and willingness to listen, to empathize, to communicate and to manage. These qualities, so remarkably exemplified by Father Ted Hesburgh, are shared by Ernie and others that Father Ted inspired.

Like Father Ted, as well, Ernie has an ecumenical openness that our country needs much more of today. Jane and I will never forget, for instance, the grace and good humor with which he helped us affix the Mezuzah to the doorpost of our home on Cape Cod, a corner of the world we both love.

Kudos and thanks to Ernie for that and for all you have done and continue to do, yourself and through all those you have taught and influenced.

Un gran abrazo,

Abe Lowenthal