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Pope?s quotes: ?Odor of the sheep?

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A quote from Pope Francis:

?The priest who seldom goes out of himself, who anoints little ? I won?t say ?not at all? because, thank God, the people take the oil from us anyway ? misses out on the best of our people, on what can stir the depths of his priestly heart. Those who do not go out of themselves, instead of being mediators, gradually become intermediaries, managers. We know the difference: the intermediary, the manager, ?has already received his reward?, and since he doesn?t put his own skin and his own heart on the line, he never hears a warm, heartfelt word of thanks. This is precisely the reason for the dissatisfaction of some, who end up sad ? sad priests - in some sense becoming collectors of antiques or novelties, instead of being shepherds living with ?the odor of the sheep?. This I ask you: be shepherds, with the ?odor of the sheep?, make it real, as shepherds among your flock, fishers of men. True enough, the so-called crisis of priestly identity threatens us all and adds to the broader cultural crisis; but if we can resist its onslaught, we will be able to put out in the name of the Lord and cast our nets. It is not a bad thing that reality itself forces us to ?put out into the deep?, where what we are by grace is clearly seen as pure grace, out into the deep of the contemporary world, where the only thing that counts is ?unction? ? not function ? and the nets which overflow with fish are those cast solely in the name of the One in whom we have put our trust: Jesus.?

-- Chrism Mass, St. Peter?s Basilica, March 28, 2013

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