

Oglesby native publishes book about leadership, beatitudes

By Matthew Baker
NewsTribune Reporter

A St. Bede Academy alumnus is revealing the connections between faith and leadership in a new book.

Dan Ebener, originally of Oglesby, recently published "Blessings for Leaders: Leadership Wisdom from the Beatitudes."

"As a person who has worked in nonprofits for most of my life ... I realized that a lot of the work that needs to be done when you're doing community work, it can't be done by yourself. It needs a team of leaders," said Ebener, who is now a tenured professor at St. Ambrose University in Davenport.

Each chapter of the book begins with a discussion of one of the eight beatitudes and then continues with a reflection on how each virtue con-

nects with leadership skills.

Ebener, a former director of Catholic Charities in Davenport and current part-time director of stewardship and parish planning for the Diocese of Davenport, said he has learned from his years of leadership that when it comes to finding success in large community projects, it's necessary to help others become leaders.

"It's not about how many followers you lead, but how many leaders you develop," he said.

The lessons offered in Ebener's book are intended for those from all walks of life.

He said it's common for people, whatever their career, to be trained in certain technical skills and as they excel in those areas they are promoted to leadership roles, but they haven't been trained to lead.

Ebener hopes his book can help people find the wisdom needed to lead through scripture lessons.

"You have to develop the character of the person before you can lead," Ebener said.

Ebener previously published a book on servant leadership in Catholic parishes.

For more information about Ebener and his books, visit the website www.servantleadershipmodels.com.

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Ebener

