

Under the floor. And there are a few monuments among the many that are there, there are a few of the popes but not a great many. But there are 6 or 8 places around where they have a big niche and in it the statue of a man. These men are given particular honor in the church. Men whom they call St. Francis, St. Benedict, St. Ignatius, etc. Individuals who went and formed orders within the church.

The thing that struck me is that everyone of these who is so honored by having a niche is a man who did his work at first against the desires of the leaders of the church, often under great criticism from them. St. Ignatius, the founder of the Jesuit order was suspected of being a heretic and was held and very carefully examined. St. Francis was looked down on for a long time until he won recognition. These were men who ~~saw a need and stepped out to fulfill that need, and whose~~ great contribution to the church was recognized and is recognized more than that of almost any of the popes.

It sounds beautiful to build a great organization and have it controlled right down from the top. But God has not bidden us to have a great organization but he wants us to recognize that there is an organism in which each member of the organism has a right of direct access to God, and a right to learn God's will by studying His Word, and finding what God has there in His Word for him.

Yesterday I heard about a man who had graduated from a seminary a few years ago, one of the most ardent soul winners I have known among all our students, a man who was a very effective Christian worker. He worked with -- I think it was the Navigators, one of those organizations. He worked with them a number of years, and I'm sure the Lord greatly blessed in his work.

I only know what I heard indirectly. I have not seen or talked with him in a long time. But whether there was some ~~little personal irritation between him and others, whether~~ they did not recognize his value as they should -- I don't know. But now I've heard he has reacted strongly against them. He now says, God works through the local church. I don't know what church it is, but God works through the local church! The Navigators -- if that was the ~~org~~ organization -- were always anxious -- after me to know how many souls I'd won for Christ, today. How many this week, etc.

Well, a Christian can easily get into a position where someone else is dictating to him exactly what area of Christian work he should engage in or how his time should be spent. But you know a local church can get exactly the same way. In fact, there are many local churches who have a minister who is practically an autocrat, and who receives people and throws people out. Who orders people around. And a man of great ability ~~■~~ can do ~~that~~ ^{that} often very effectively.