

## **ONE OF MONSIGNOR'S FAVORITES**

### **ON HANDLING THE BIG ROCKS**

There is a story told of a gentleman who traveled this country giving workshops on Time Management to various companies and corporations. One morning after a two-hour session he invited his listeners to stretch their legs for a few minutes. While they did so he reached under the table and placed a large wide-mouthed jar on the table before him. He then took a sack and placed it next to the jar and removed from the sack a series of rocks, each one the size of a fist. Carefully he placed the rocks in the jar until there was no more room. He looked up and realized that every eye was on him and so he asked his audience if they thought the jar was full. They nodded their assent. "Not quite." He reached beneath the table again and took out a second sack which contained small bits of gravel. He slowly poured the gravel into the jar filling all the spaces between the rocks. Again, he asked his question but this time they were on to him. No. The jar was not full.

Aha, they were correct! He reached beneath the table to extract a sack of sand which he then poured slowly into the jar. Again, he asked if it were full. Again, there was dissent. He then reached for a pitcher of water and slowly poured it into the jar until the rim was reached. "Is it full now?" "Yes." And so it was. Then he asked, "Given all we have discussed this morning about how best to manage our time, what is the meaning of this little exercise?" After some thought one man raised his hand and volunteered. "I think it means that no matter how busy you get, if you take your responsibilities and break them up into small pieces you can actually find time to fit more into a crowded schedule." "Good try," he answered, "but not on target."

The point of this exercise is this: If you don't put the big rocks into the jar first, you will never be able to get them in later on. See to it that in your life the big rocks are set in place first.