John Sweeney gladly left fast-track to millions to embrace poverty

12:00AM / Wednesday, January 17, 2001

Print Story | Email Story

On track to become a millionaire bond salesman on Wall Street, John Sweeney gave it all away to embrace a life of radical poverty. Six-feet-plus tall, with a long beard, in the full-length dark robe of a Franciscan, and a wooden rosary on his belt, Sweeney spoke Jan. 13 to a crowd of more than 40 men ranging from college students to retirees at a monthly men’s breakfast meeting at St. Patrick’s Church in Williamstown. Sweeney was born on Long Island, N.Y., the youngest of eight children in an Irish Catholic family. He went to Catholic grade school and public high school and attended the University of Virginia. 

Originally, I stopped going to church when I was about 13 years old, & he said. 

According to Ivan, the visionary who saw the apparition that day (e), they were tears of joy. (e) At first, Sweeney knew from a very young age that he wanted to do something more than just make money. & he said. 

The community has a place on a mountain in Stamford, Vt., where novices are trained and he is novice master. Three novices currently reside there. The men’s breakfasts are held on the second Saturday of each month and have averaged 30 to 40 men. The events begin at 8 a.m. at St. Patrick’s Parish Hall on Southworth Street in Williamstown and include a breakfast, a couple of songs, a & center; faith minute & brief talk on some aspect of Catholic faith, and a testimony such as Sweeney’s. The events last about an hour and a half and a contribution of $3 from each man is accepted. 

However, the man was uninterested in a deal, and turned the tables by asking Sweeney if he had ever heard of a place called Medjugorje, a small town in what was then Yugoslavia, where the Virgin Mary was said to appear in apparitions to six young children, giving them messages for the world. The man gave Sweeney some brochures on Medjugorje, which he promptly forgot about. 

In an idle moment two weeks later Sweeney picked them up & just to kind of see what foolishness religious people are believing in these days. & However, he was powerfully struck and confronted by the core of the Gospel message, which is repent and believe found in the messages from Mary. Sweeney soon set out for Yugoslavia to see if the apparitions were in fact taking place, traveling with his fellow bond salesman and one of his sisters. Seeing the visionaries first on tape and then one of them during an apparition up close in person impressed Sweeney greatly. 

A & center; if this is true, I want to know. & & The man was uninterested in a deal, and turned the tables by asking Sweeney if he had ever heard of a place called Medjugorje, a small town in what was then Yugoslavia, where the Virgin Mary was said to appear in apparitions to six young children, giving them messages for the world. The man gave Sweeney some brochures on Medjugorje, which he promptly forgot about. In an idle moment two weeks later Sweeney picked them up & just to kind of see what foolishness religious people are believing in these days. & However, he was powerfully struck and confronted by the core of the Gospel message, which is repent and believe found in the messages from Mary. Sweeney soon set out for Yugoslavia to see if the apparitions were in fact taking place, traveling with his fellow bond salesman and one of his sisters. Seeing the visionaries first on tape and then one of them during an apparition up close in person impressed Sweeney greatly. & 

According to Ivan, the visionary who saw the apparition that day, Mary’s message was to pray, especially on behalf of young people & center; Satan is incredibly strong and they are in grave danger. & Sweeney immediately began praying for his 18 nieces and nephews. 

The next day he had a mystical experience while walking with his sister. (e) I ran two bars, played on the lacrosse team. I majored in finance, accounting and economics, to basically make money & he said. 

The men’s breakfasts are held on the second Saturday of each month and have averaged 30 to 40 men. The events begin at 8 a.m. at St. Patrick’s Parish Hall on Southworth Street in Williamstown and include a breakfast, a couple of songs, a & center; faith minute & brief talk on some aspect of Catholic faith, and a testimony such as Sweeney’s. The events last about an hour and a half and a contribution of $3 from each man is accepted. 

The next day he had a mystical experience while walking with his sister. (e) I almost threw up on my desk when I got there, there was just so much evil, so much greed, so much arrogance, & he said, while noting that some good people worked there. But there is just an incredible culture of oppression that’s there, and I think it’s in a lot of other places, too. As at first, Sweeney’s ultimate path was unclear, but his vigorous faith life included daily Mass, periodic fasting, three rosaries a day and penance — mostly living in poverty and trying to witness to the sufficiency of the providence of God. &

Inspired by an uncle who was a bond broker: “I want to finagle him to give me that account. “

With a deep and growing desire to live a life of radical poverty like Christ and St. Francis, he returned to the U.S., penance — mostly living in poverty and trying to witness to the sufficiency of the providence of God. &

According to Ivan, the visionary who saw the apparition that day (e), they were tears of joy. &

However, the man was uninterested in a deal, and turned the tables by asking Sweeney if he had ever heard of a place called Medjugorje, a small town in what was then Yugoslavia, where the Virgin Mary was said to appear in apparitions to six young children, giving them messages for the world. The man gave Sweeney some brochures on Medjugorje, which he promptly forgot about. In an idle moment two weeks later Sweeney picked them up & just to kind of see what foolishness religious people are believing in these days. & However, he was powerfully struck and confronted by the core of the Gospel message, which is repent and believe found in the messages from Mary. Sweeney soon set out for Yugoslavia to see if the apparitions were in fact taking place, traveling with his fellow bond salesman and one of his sisters. Seeing the visionaries first on tape and then one of them during an apparition up close in person impressed Sweeney greatly. &

However, the man was uninterested in a deal, and turned the tables by asking Sweeney if he had ever heard of a place called Medjugorje, a small town in what was then Yugoslavia, where the Virgin Mary was said to appear in apparitions to six young children, giving them messages for the world. The man gave Sweeney some brochures on Medjugorje, which he promptly forgot about. In an idle moment two weeks later Sweeney picked them up & just to kind of see what foolishness religious people are believing in these days. & However, he was powerfully struck and confronted by the core of the Gospel message, which is repent and believe found in the messages from Mary. Sweeney soon set out for Yugoslavia to see if the apparitions were in fact taking place, traveling with his fellow bond salesman and one of his sisters. Seeing the visionaries first on tape and then one of them during an apparition up close in person impressed Sweeney greatly. &
John Sweeney gladly left fast-track to millions to embrace poverty /

iBerkshires.com - The Berkshires online guide to events, news and Berkshire County.

Short Slim Sleeveless V Neck Embroidered Dress

$39.99
Ad T.J.Maxx

Learn more

Support Local News

We show up at hurricanes, budget meetings, high school games, accidents, fires and community events. We show up at celebrations and tragedies and everything in between. We show up so our readers can learn about pivotal events that affect their communities and their lives.

How important is local news to you? You can support independent, unbiased journalism and help iBerkshires grow for as little as the cost of a cup of coffee a week.

Support iBerkshires

(iBerkshires.com welcomes critical, respectful dialogue; please keep comments focused on the issues and not on personalities. Profanity, obscenity, racist language and harassment are not allowed. iBerkshires reserves the right to ban commenters or remove commenting on any article at any time. Concerns may be sent to info@iberkshires.com (MailTo:info@iberkshires.com?subject=Facebook%20Comments).)

0 Comments

Add a comment...

Facebook Comments Plugin
John Sweeney gladly left fast-track to millions to embrace poverty / iBerkshires.com - The Berkshires online guide to events, news and Berkshire Count...


Berkshire Health Systems (/clickthru.php?id=55)
Our Patients Can Count On Us! BMC Ranked Among the Safest Hospitals in the Country.
www.berkshirehealthsystems.org (/clickthru.php?id=55)

Misty Moonlight Diner (/clickthru.php?id=304)
Breakfast Served All Day. Feature a variety of Breakfast, Lunch and Diner specialties. (413)499-2483
www.misty diner.com (/clickthru.php?id=304)

Tahiti Takeout (/clickthru.php?id=303)
Chinese and Polynesian dishes. Daily lunch & dinner Specials. Pittsfield, MA (413)499-4711
www.thetahitatkeout.com (/clickthru.php?id=303)

Recent Stories

NORTH ADAMS COUNCIL ACCEPTS LIBRARY... (/story/59954/NORTH-ADAMS-COUNCIL-ACCEPTS-LIBRARY-GIFT-OKS-ARTS-COMMISSION-ORDINANCE.html)

State Board Grants Waiver for North Adams Public Safety Building...
John Sweeney gladly left fast-track to millions to embrace poverty / iBerkshires.com - The Berkshires online guide to events, news and Berkshire Count...