



Essential Evangelization

Servant Leadership

In today's Second Reading, St. Paul tells us that we should "*do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interest of others.*" This excerpt from the Word of God very aptly describes a style of leadership that has only recently been highly praised as a very effective contemporary management style.

Servant leadership is a practice and philosophy of leadership, coined in the 20th century and supported by many contemporary management expert consultants including Ken Blanchard (*The One Minute Manager*), Stephen Covey (*The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*) and Peter Senge (*The 5th Discipline*). This management style is in complete opposition to another popular repressive, dictatorial autocratic style that has historically been utilized in world governments, militaries and organizational leadership. Servant leadership is however over 2000 years old and was exemplified first by the only perfect man that ever walked this earth, Jesus. He even washed his disciple's feet.

Servant-leaders can achieve extraordinary results for their organizations by giving priority attention to the needs of those in their care. Servant-leaders are also humble stewards of their organization's resources. They lead by example.

If God has given you authority in an organization or leadership position, are you following Christ? More importantly, have you "confessed" that Jesus is the Lord of your life.

"Have this mind among yourselves, which was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father."

Phil 2: 5-11

*This is one of a series of articles on
Evangelization from the
Evangelization Committee*