



ZOOM MEETING HELD ON 28th SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 7:30PM

CHAPTER 9 - Leadership. Essentials – Fr Julio Ocana

CHAPTER 10 – Leadership Influence – Peter Wills

Contributions

Group 1

Both chapters were so nicely summarised.

It is very important that each one of us should understand our role in a community. We cannot all be leaders.

Eph 4: 11-13 explains so well the God given gifts: A-P-E-P-T (Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers)

We must serve and be part of a living community.

A good leader is one who services with Passion/Joy/Love.

We already have the tools to perform mission but do not know it.

We do not use more than 5% of our gifts. We already have the ability to form a mission.

What inspires a Priest to carry on day after day? - Commitment is so important.

A servant leader will credit any successes to his team and take failure on themselves.

Focus as much on the people in the mission as the mission itself.

We need to ask the Holy Spirit to inspire us.

Copy Jesus and act as a “Servant Leader”. Serve, Love

Do not be a “positional leader” using your power and position. Forget your position and title.



When there is success, the team performs well. If there is failure, it is your fault.

Surround yourself with talented people and help them achieve greater things.

Focus as much on the people on the mission with you as much as the mission: Confidence. Commitment ‘Stick to it’ after the first flush. Empowerment – delegate. Courage. Strategy is what you do – tactics, they do (and are responsible for). Passion - expression of love - essential. Trustworthiness - keep your promises. Likeability - show contentment.

Quote - St Cardinal Newman glowed with holiness: “Aquinas said the monsters are Wealth/Pleasure/Honour/Power.

St Ignatius of Loyola: “What if the church said do not waste your time founding another order?”

PUT GOD FIRST – PRAY AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

Group 2

The group had enjoyed Fr Mallon’s story about the Fedex employee and drew a parallel with those who have not asked the Holy Spirit for the inspiration to “open the box” to see what talents we have been given. A significant part of mission was to discern what gifts people had been given and how best these can be used in the service of others.

Many people have the talents to be part of the evangelising church, but do not come forward because of busy working lives, family commitments etc and so remain in the early stages of formation, even after years of being practising Catholics - “ Still on milk when they should have moved to solids “.



Another reason for not pursuing the evangelical call is that many see evangelising as the role of bishops, priests and others in the religious life. “Ordinary” Catholics support them through prayer and financial donations but do not think that they too can evangelise with the help of the Holy Spirit.

On leadership, we agreed that people need to experience love in the relationship, not fear.

Leaders need to stay close to the Lord to provide this and to avoid the temptations of seeking honour or power. In fact, some leaders welcome seeing fear, as it enhances further their perception of being powerful. It must have taken so much courage for St Paul to confront St Peter for what he saw was St Peter’s moving back towards Jewish ways. Equally, it might say something about St Peter’s leadership that he was prepared to receive an approach on such a sensitive matter.

Leaders must search for the talents in others and see their potential. The gifts are already there, they must be discerned by leadership. Fr Julio spoke about how he had listened to others in the community to help him establish where the talents in the community lay.

Leaders often had to resolve conflict between members of their team when each was trying to obtain the best outcome for their area of responsibility. These tensions are natural and not to be avoided; Fr Mallon described very well the time in a meeting which was the “storming” session, when all views were on the table, with respectful but frank exchanges, so that the best outcome could be achieved, without hurt or offence.



What should always unify in any discussion is the goal to be achieved. The paths towards its achievement may prove to be diverse, but the goal was the guide. It is important to keep the goal in sight at all times and not undermine it by compromise, designed only to placate.

Group 3

We felt Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was so special-God coming down to man and the fact that all priests and laity were in such awe of this devotion.

To do God's work one must be able to die to self because of being human it can so easily be a manifestation of pride. There are feelings one needs to control. The best charity is for the giver not knowing the receiver, and the receiver not knowing the giver. In other words, one must learn not to blow one's own trumpet. There are parishioners that just want to receive the sacraments and stop there, and others that grow and learn to evangelise. Another blessing that spoke to us is when we hear a priest give the blessing at the end of mass and tells us "Go in peace glorifying God with your life -and all for the glory of God."

Group 4

We discussed how not all priests have all talents, so it is important for them to be able to draw on the gifts and talents of people in their community to be a missionary Church. It is important for leaders to be soft leaders.

We are all "The Church", not just the priests and religious, so important to have leaders who can guide others in the "Way of Jesus".

We should follow Jesus's example of leadership and blessings will come out of this.



We felt it was important to trust your leader and how in any leadership role it is important to demonstrate willingness to do any role you ask your team to do – lead by example.

None of us are perfect, so we will make mistakes, but it is important to pick ourselves up and continue to keep trying and remember the mission.

Only by volunteering do you understand how much lay people can do and are needed to do – we should serve like Jesus. We all have a role.

We felt confidence is important- as Fr Mallon described it-: having the confidence to believe that it is God calling us.

Everything happens for a reason. The Lord has a hand in everything, and we discussed how in COVID-19, a benefit has been that people have re-evaluated their lives and priorities.

It is important to understand the foundations of the Gospels and everything the Catholic teaching has to give us. We felt that most people only had a basic teaching of Catholicism in their youth and only by being part of a community we can be given these opportunities to deepen our faith and be introduced to the many fruits and blessings that are within the Catholic teachings. We must dig deeper adult formation and grow in community.



NEXT MEETING

**11th November
7:30 p.m.
“Beyond the Parish”**

Chapter 11: “Leadership as a Team Sport”

- pp. 169-178

Harvey Martin

Chapter 12: Leading out of a Team - pp. 179-200

Pauline McKenna

Chair Person: Nuala Bamberg

Secretary: Alice De Lima