

Called to Servant Leadership – Handout 2

What Is Servant Leadership? Personal Reflection Questions (DO IN SILENCE!)

1. “The foundation of servant leadership is following Christ.” Consider your habits—daily routines, the music you listen to, where and with whom you spend your time. What do these things tell you about who or what you follow? Write down one or two habits that are not helpful when it comes to following Christ, and replace them with one or two new habits that are.

2. “The great leader is seen as servant first.” Where are you called to give of yourself to the point of sacrifice? In what ways does your answer indicate a call to servant leadership?

3. “The most effective servant leaders,” says Dr. Stephen Covey, “**live by their inward sense of right and wrong.**” This gives them “moral authority” – the one quality that makes the difference between leadership that works and leadership that *endures*.

What leaders come to mind when you think about this? Give an example of their moral authority, and how that sets them apart. Then think about how this applies to your own life, where you live or work. Give an example of how you have shown—or can show—moral authority as a servant leader.

Called to Servant Leadership – Handout 3

What Is Servant Leadership? – Individual Notecard Reflection Part 1

Another quote from Dr. Stephen Covey:

“The very top people of truly great organizations are servant-leaders. They are the most humble, reverent, open, teachable, respectful, caring, determined. They subordinate the *what I want* ego to reasoning, persuasion, kindness, empathy, trustworthiness.”

Consider how you reflect the most important personal qualities of a true servant leader in your own life. Begin by considering the following set of questions:

- 1) What qualities come to mind when you think about servant leadership? Select from within the stack of white cards in your folder. Use the blank cards in your stack to record additional personal characteristics that you feel are reflected in the life of a servant leader. (You do not need to fill all of the cards.)
- 2) Which of these qualities describe **you** well? Select the 3-5 qualities that you think are most present within you, and set the rest of the cards aside for the time being.
- 3) Make a few notes on these 3-5 cards as you consider: Who in your life would recognize these particular qualities in you? In what contexts do you find yourself most clearly demonstrating these characteristics? In what ways do you, or could you, use these particular qualities to respond to Christ’s call to servant leadership?

5 minutes

Called to Servant Leadership – Handout 4
Obstacles to Servant Leadership: Reflection Questions

“Take up my yoke and learn from me,
for I am meek and humble of heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.”
(Matthew 11:29)

1. Spend some time reading and meditating on the Litany of Humility, printed on the back of this page. Which lines, if any, do you find easiest to pray? What is it about these particular qualities that make them easy for you to want?
2. Which lines, if any, do you find most challenging? What is it about these qualities that make them so difficult to desire?
3. Earlier in this retreat, you considered the areas in your life in which you feel God calling you to the role of servant leader – the areas in which you are being called to give of yourself to the point of sacrifice. What stumbling blocks make it difficult to respond to God’s call in these situations? Do you recognize any of your personal obstacles listed among the desires and fears in the Litany of Humility? Or are there any lines that you might add to this prayer – and if so, what are they?

The Litany of Humility

Composed by Rafael Cardinal Merry de Val (1865-1930), Secretary of State for Pope St. Pius X.

O Jesus! meek and humble of heart, Hear me.

(Repeat after each line: *"Deliver me, Jesus."*)

From the desire of being esteemed...
From the desire of being loved...
From the desire of being extolled...
From the desire of being honored...
From the desire of being praised...
From the desire of being preferred to others...
From the desire of being consulted...
From the desire of being approved...

From the fear of being humiliated...
From the fear of being despised...
From the fear of suffering rebukes...
From the fear of being calumniated*...
From the fear of being forgotten...
From the fear of being ridiculed...
From the fear of being wronged...
From the fear of being suspected...

(Repeat after each line: *"Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it."*)

That others may be loved more than I...
That others may be esteemed more than I...
That, in the opinion of the world, others may increase and I may decrease...
That others may be chosen and I set aside...
That others may be praised and I unnoticed...
That others may be preferred to me in everything...
That others may become holier than I, provided that I may become as holy as I should...

Amen.

**slandered*

Loving

Effective Administrator

Courageous

Respectful

Initiator

Humble

Disciplined

Persuasive

Determined

Visionary

Life-giving

Prayerful

Obedient

Relational

Trustworthy

Effective Listener

Empathetic

Open

Selfless

Attentive