



Catholic Leadership Program

Innovation in Leadership

2014-2015

What happens if we step outside ourselves? The same as can happen to anyone who comes out of the house and onto the street: an accident. But I tell you, I far prefer a Church that has had a few accidents to a Church that has fallen sick from being closed.

-Pope Francis, Address from St. Peter's Square, May 18, 2013

"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might." Ecclesiastes 9:10

The call to leadership embeds not only acceptance of self but acceptance of the accountability to become the best possible version of oneself by addressing one's flaws relentlessly; the call to lead inspires that ongoing commitment to self-reflection and to self-improvement.

The call to action asks us to unify our team to a common mission. Ignatius exhorted Jesuits to live "with one foot raised" ever ready to seize opportunity. However, this call is to ensure a disciplined approach with prayer and recollection. To wit, part of a virtuous circle that includes diligence, doing what is right and thinking anew.

The call to doing what is right through the lens of our gospel values, despite our human failings, requires diligence. This entails the necessity of giving sufficient attention to detail to avoid error and prevail against obstacles. Thinking anew includes a deliberate reflection on our flaws and a constant searching for new solutions. "Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown" Henry IV. Pope Francis' challenge is to discern the right path forward through uncertainty and massive change by living in the present, reverencing tradition, and creating the future.

His new leadership style promotes the following:

1. To know yourself deeply
2. To serve others
3. To immerse ourselves in the world
4. Withdraw from the world daily
5. Live in the present
6. Reverence our traditions while helping create a new world

Leadership is not a license to do less; it is a responsibility to do more and innovation is part of this process. Leadership takes work, time and energy. "We must be open to the paradox of great leadership: it is profoundly spiritual." The effects of innovation in leadership are not always measured and they are not always immediate and never fully realized. This is what pulls organizations forward in the interest of continuous improvement and a commitment to excellence.

"Our life is a journey, and when we stop moving, things go wrong."

-Pope Francis when speaking to fellow cardinals