



POPE FRANCIS

Presented by Renée Underwood

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Opening Prayer

Lord, teach me to be generous.
Teach me to serve you as you deserve;
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labor and not to ask for reward,
save that of knowing that I do your will.

Prayer for Generosity (St. Ignatius of Loyola)



“I dream of a ‘missionary option’, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.”

– Pope Francis



Table Activity

- What are qualities of a good leader?
- What are qualities of a bad leader?

“Too often, those in leadership positions seem preoccupied only with their own status or income. Unable to inspire or unite us, they are not imaginative enough to solve the seemingly intractable problems that plague us. They are afraid to make the tough choices or even to level with us. They are insufficiently courageous and thereto lead us through challenge and drive change.”

– Chris Lowney



Leadership

- Think about why we are so disappointed with the leadership status quo.
- Imagine a new way to lead that would inspire us.
- Articulate the commitments we can make to become better leaders in our own lives.

A Leadership Handbook from the 16th Century

- “Leaders act on beliefs and convictions formed long before they reached the executive suite or papal apartments.” Consequently, if you want to understand Pope Francis' "leadership vision," then you need to understand the underlying "leadership formation" which, for Francis, was the rigor of his training as a Jesuit.
- Ignatian Spirituality
- Jesuit Training – long
- Personal Credo



Spiritual Exercises

- A compilation of meditations, prayers, and contemplative practices developed by St. Ignatius Loyola to help people deepen their relationship with God. For centuries the Exercises were most commonly given as a “long retreat” of about 30 days in solitude and silence.
- In recent years, there has been a renewed emphasis on the Spiritual Exercises as a program for laypeople. The most common way of going through the Exercises now is a “retreat in daily life,” which involves a month long program of daily prayer and meetings with a spiritual director. The Exercises have also been adapted in many other ways to meet the needs of modern people.

A Leadership Handbook from the 16th Century

- Pilgrimage for Young Jesuits
 - They are obliged to survive on their basic resources and the help they meet on the way. They experience poverty in their own condition and they get to meet, know, and learn from poverty in their encounters. They experience "the frontier" – a favorite word for Francis.
- Jesuits Forego any Advancement
 - St. Ignatius of Loyola, felt that excessive personal ambition was the "mother of all evils in any community or congregation."
 - St. Ignatius instructed the Jesuits "never to seek higher office" and developed a training program to "rein in the human tendency to stroke one's ego by seeking status, power, and advancement. He knew how organizational infighting could damage organizational morale."
 - Their focus must be mission and they must be ready to take any load proffered to them.
 - Francis himself addresses this issue vividly: "The freedom from ambition or personal aims, for me, is important, it's important! Careerism is leprosy! Leprosy!"
- A Jesuit Must "Know Himself"
 - He must consider his weaknesses and strengths realistically. He must know how far he falls short yet he must value himself as an instrument for mission.

A Leadership Handbook from the 16th Century

- A Jesuit Must Value Others
 - From the poor, who can teach us more than we can teach them, to the atheist, whose capacity for doing good is a witness to the Redemption.
 - God is to be found everywhere: "I have a dogmatic certainty: God is in every person's life. God is in everyone's life. Even if the life of a person has been a disaster, even if it is destroyed by vices, drugs or anything else—God is in this person's life."
- A Jesuit has a Bias Towards Action
 - Always on a journey, pausing from time to time to consider his direction, but he must always step forward and risk mistakes if he is to reach his destination.
- A Jesuit Exhibits Personal Humility
 - "I am a sinner. This is the most accurate definition."
 - "I hear the echo of Mandela: 'I am not a saint unless a saint means a sinner who keeps trying.' Not a bad definition, I think."

Group Discussion

- Name some of the early activities of Pope Francis that told you, "This man is different."

Deliberate Purpose in Action

- Francis has undertaken to correct the mismatch between the Church's mission and the Church's practice. It is a formidable challenge.
- A manager would have withdrawn into his sanctum, written out a mission statement, and detailed the necessary changes and how they should be made. A leader says: I understand the mission and I am going to live it out in my personal behavior. I am offering an invitation, not a command. He sets out the principles and then leaves it to his managers to explore the detail. He must start by changing minds so that we can end by changing the Church.

Implications for the Church

- Pope Francis has acted forcefully to shake us from our comfort zone with his "back-to-the future" 16th Century challenges, proclaiming that:
 - Christians need to get beyond their "comfort zones" and live with greater "apostolic fervor."
 - The Church needs to be more "poor, and for the poor."
 - Those in the Vatican diplomatic corps (and all others in the hierarchy) should understand that "careerism is leprosy."
 - The global culture is rooted in believing that money is more important than people.
 - Fellow bishops must become "Men who love...poverty, simplicity, and austerity of life."

Will He Succeed?

- “A man always has two reasons for what he does: a good reason, and the real one. Francis is bent on ensuring that the good Church and the real Church are one and the same thing. In nearly eighty years of Catholic life, I had given up ever expecting to see it.” J. Pierpont Morgan

Six Habits & Convictions

- Be who you are (but first you must know who you are).
- Authentic power is service (don't just walk in the shoes of the less fortunate, wash their feet).
- Immerse yourself in the world's joys and sufferings.
- Withdraw to find perspective .
- Build on stones and live in the present.
- Create the future.



In Summary

- Pope Francis probably does not have a leadership philosophy, but only a focus, that on being a follower of Jesus.

“I believe in the surprise of each day.” – from Pope Francis’ personal Credo.

Closing Prayer

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,
my memory, my understanding
and my entire will,
All I have and call my own.

You have given all to me.
To you, Lord, I return it.

Everything is yours; do with it what you will.
Give me only your love and your grace.
That is enough for me.

Suscipe (St. Ignatius of Loyola)

