
A Servant Leadership that Works as a Team

“Clearly, advocating for collaboration and team building, and living as Servant leaders can bring a humanizing and personal balance to some of these autocratic and hierarchical systems on our planet today.”

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My name is Brother António Maveze Armando, a Mozambican national. I belong to the Marist Province of Southern Africa. I am a vocation promoter, a catechist, and a teacher. My present community is in Praia do Bilene, Mozambique.

I start with my reflection on the book “Marist Voices”, chapter 15.

The most touching thing in my life as a Marist servant leader is the joy of working in a team. “We are different but complementary”. Indeed, we are different, but this difference does not divide us; on the contrary, it unites us. Therefore, now more than ever, is the time to cultivate this spirit of teamwork. In the African context we have a good example, that of ants. They even go so far as to carry a large piece of bread through their union.

In several Marist communities in which I have lived, the laywomen, laymen and the brothers work collectively with a great availability for the good of the Marist Institute.

As Babe Ruth (2023: <https://blog.vantagecircle.com/pt/frases-trabalho-em-equipe/>)¹ wrote: “The way a team plays as a whole determines its success.” In union there is strength. We may have great intellectuals, doctors, scientists, etc.; but if there is no unity among them, we will never succeed or there will be no development at all.

Here it is important to mention the value of unity so that team members understand each other and work towards the same end.

I had a good experience that I will never forget. After my scholasticate I dedicated myself to a Marist work where we had a small school. As a young brother with a lot of energy, initiative, etc., I was faced with the situation of working with children from 5 to 6 years old. Here I learned that, in fact, for a good servant leader, working at the top level is not the most important thing, but to do it with heart. It was a very delicate job; I even had to wash my clothes almost every day. There I learnt many things and had to start a new era in my life.



I started in a new reality where the lay educators were my teachers. As a brother, I discovered how necessary the presence of lay people is in our life. I am grateful for the presence of so many lay Marists throughout the world who give their lives for the good of the Institute. Their work is of the utmost importance. Do not be discouraged, because the world needs you. Thanks to the support of all the lay people, I have learnt a lot about Marist education: your way of teaching our youngest children to work as a team, to play football, to plant trees, to care for our Mother Earth, to pray, to forgive and to grow in collaboration and mutual help.

As a piece of advice to all Marists of Champagnat, let us work as a team. Be humble and educate our ego. Only in this way will we make Jesus Christ known and loved among children and young people, especially those most in need.



The opinions expressed in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Marist Institute.

If you would like to share your ideas, reflections, or experiences about servant and prophetic leadership with the Commission as a result of these reflections, write to fms.cimm@fms.it