
Leadership and CARE

Jesus, in the story of the multiplication of the loaves connects with the need of the other, he senses it, he perceives it, it produces an inner movement in him and promptly tries to give an answer. It implies, in our service of leadership, connecting with the gaze, the truth, the perception, the feelings of the other; entering, barefoot, without prejudice, into their story and their mystery. This deep communion becomes a sacred space of conversion for those who accompany and those who are accompanied
(Marist Voices, essays on prophetic servant leadership. Chapter 12)

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My DNA reveals and says about me that I try to be an educator and formator with extensive experience (more than 30 years) in the accompaniment of socio-educational projects aimed at minors and young people in contexts of vulnerability and social risk. I work in formal and non-formal settings and in the Marist educational network. Likewise, I am currently part of the Marist Life field, accompanying the different community expressions and journeys of lay partnership to the charism.

When I think of the characteristics that we can embody in our service, what comes to mind is the importance of having a fraternal outlook and the commitment to care for each encounter that nurtures and sustains the relationship.

We live in times of comings and goings, of encounters in which the IN-TER dynamic fills everything with meaning and with the desire...

- to CONNECT from the depths, from the inside;
- of CREATING FRATERNITY with simple gestures and moments, the ministry of hospitality and welcome at the service of “the little ones” of this land, the Home of All;
- to CARE for and ACCOMPANY the different expressions of Marist life, Sisters and Brothers of Champagnat in communion;
- to INCARNATE significant experiences from the transforming commitment of the communities;
- to INTERPRET and REVISIT the social and ecclesial events of our time with a prophetic and hopeful gaze - “Ring the bells that can still ring, and forget your perfect

offering; there is a crack - a crack - in all things. That's how the light gets in" (Leonard Cohen);

- to EXERCISE CARE by weaving networks of gestures and encounters, of universality and openness. (Message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, 2021)
- to BELIEVE in the human being and in the God-Encounter who accompanies and encourages us... RUAH encourages the movements of the heart.

So very important are the meeting spaces and let oneself be met, where to pass and to stop, where to learn and to unlearn, where to feel safe and to care, where to allow oneself to be moved, where to heal, where to contrast and to accompany, where to silence the deafening noise outside, where to be nourished, where to believe and to celebrate life, where simply to be in communion! Our communities must be a profound experience of communion and encounter, of home. A whole learning process of relationships and experiences.

On the other hand, we cannot be indifferent to the cries of our time, to the different realities and social urgencies that depict so much fragility and intemperance. The groaning of THE MARGINALIZED of the Earth can only be heard by everyone in the depths of their conscience. To hear this voice, the first thing is to want to hear it and to look beyond it: to pay attention to its story; to be sensitive to the injustice and the dehumanizing and indiscriminate abuse that reigns in the world. If we really listen to the voice of those who suffer, we must take a stand: we all count, we are all in it together, we are all connected! Everything is connected!

The world needs concrete gestures, generous gestures, simple gestures, audacious gestures, gestures against the current, heroic gestures in the small and the ordinary. Thank you for your small gestures, they are very important!

IN COMMUNION, weaving networks of relationships and stories, of encounters and living communities! Out in the open, in the squares, on the street corners, at the border and at the fence (here or there)! In front of the barbed wire, expression of the geographical and existential borders of the South. I cannot help but look with compassion, with openness, with pain. We are called to make visible a universal, fraternal, humanizing and transcendent humanity.





We are part of a great family, of a land through which we pass one another and where we can rest TOGETHER as an itinerant community. We recognize ourselves as part of this community, looking beyond, (un)learning expressions and beliefs, welcoming the blessing of this moment in time and this land. We embrace the call to embody servant leadership, to CARE, to sustain and promote humanized and humanizing relationships.

On which side of the fence, on which side of the border do you stand? Who do you allow yourself to meet? What do your eyes see? What do you carry in your hands for the journey?

In the little things your gaze enjoys, in my fragility your light shines, in the hidden things you speak to me.

In the boldness of the heart is that intuition that there is a way, and I must go on.

May the good God-of-encounter continue to reveal himself here-there, then-now among the simplest.

Here we go... in the wind of the Spirit.

Hamdoulilah (thank God)

I see you (I see you, I see myself in you)

We are Marists of Champagnat



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