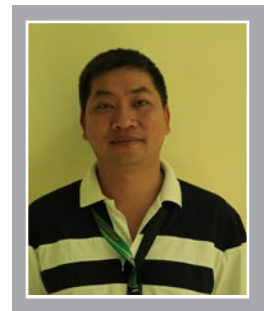

Learning the experiences of the Servant leadership

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.”
(Jn 15:16)

Br. Nguyen Duy Binh
Ta Do Project Manager
District of Asia, Vietnam



In the beginning, I want to share some ideas and my understanding of values to be a good leader and prophetic leader in the community or ministry. So, in my opinion, there are some attitudes and values that can help us to be a good leader such as:

- To recognize our cultural identity: we need to be aware of our way of thinking, feeling, and being, and knowledge of our personal, social, and family and values, behaviors from that understanding, we can understand our brother in the community more clearly when we share for each other.
- Be sincere and transparent: we can express ourselves with transparency and without pretence such as truth and honestly ourselves with each other in our daily life.
- Accept ourselves: as good leaders in the community, we need to accept our own possibilities and limitations to work on ourselves through self-reflection.
- Have an open mind: prophetic leadership needs to modify and adapt our opinions in a way that is consistent with our own beliefs, according to the circumstances and situations around our community or ministry.

So, from some values above and my understanding, I would like to share my little understanding and experiences about servant leadership. My sharing will be based on the biblical foundation for servant leadership in the Gospel of **John 13:3-15** and washing the feet was a common practice upon entering a home. The way Jesus serves the disciples and all the people He has met in his ministry is only one road to leadership and service to all people in any situation on the way of his ministry. Jesus showed his disciples how to serve each other without fear or scare, but He served

with love and brotherhood. Jesus lead the disciples on how to be humble to serve and listen to each other, even though the disciples could not understand, through his actions and behavior, Jesus wanted to show us leadership is not easy but leadership is how to be with each other and listen to each other in any case of daily life.

Also, Father Champagnat owed much to the success of his ministry and in the foundation of his Institute and his ministry, he is a good example of his way of leadership. So, there are some lessons that I learned from Father Champagnat's leadership:

- Listening and empathy
- Healing relationship
- Developing and encouraging others
- Creating a family spirit
- Having initiative, confidence, and determination
- Acting out of simplicity.

So, Prophetic leadership is one of the very important parts of formation for the brothers, It will be very helpful for brothers in the future to become a good leader prophetically. The course helps us know how to lead others in the way of Jesus and Mary in our daily lives. So, connecting with my ministry from the beginning, when was the first time I went on this mission, I had a lot of scared and worried at first meeting these people, worried that I might be arrested by the police, or these people maybe fight me, and more afraid, and worried about this place. Holding with all this worry and afraid, I tried to get more information about these people, about their lives, Jobs, and important things that's their children, studies, and education, also I spent several times visiting them. So becoming a good leader is not easy but it will have a lot of challenges and difficulties for all who a leaders. In the way of prophetic leadership, a leader needs to understand and be alert in every case of the community life, social life, and society life of each member of the community. In the Gospel, Jesus said: For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45). From that, Jesus is a good example for me to force myself, my heart to these people, and I come to serve them, serve and safe their life. That is a real mission that Jesus and Marcellin want me and all brothers to do. This is the reason, I want



to give my heart and my life to serve and to be like, be with the poor, and in the education for the children. In the footsteps of Jesus and Marcellin to serve the poor and children is a faithful mission, to make Jesus know and love all the people. So, from the poor, I can see the faith of Jesus in it and the suffering of Jesus when He died on the cross, and when I work, and serve them, I can feel their happiness of them, united and faithful of God's love in their daily life. However, my mission



is always for the needs of the poor, children, and to serve them as my brothers and sisters as a family spirit.

Finally, for the ending of my sharing, I would take some ideas from Br. David Hall's share about sustainability prophetic leadership.

HOPE AND HUMILITY

- Hope is the ultimate meaning of my existence within the relation network that is characteristic of my life, and is relation, and universal in scope.
- Christian hope goes beyond the possibilities of secularism. Hope relates to God and god's past, present, and future involving the universal
- Christian hope involves the perspective of the future, of expectation and fulfillment of the divine humanity.
- Faith can lead us to a deeper truthfulness of reality. God is in this reality.
- Hope is a receptivity ...giving ourselves toward a desirable place, in grace.

We do not hope alone, and we do not only hope for ourselves, but we also hope for one another. So, as a brother of Champagnat, our mission is to make Jesus known and love, to bring the Good News to the poor and people around the world is the main goal of the Marist of Champagnat, and to live simplicity, serve, and to be with them, live like them and do God's will in most of our life and mission. Also, to accompaniment the children into the ways of God, protect and care for the poor into the hands of God, and bring Jesus to all the churches. So that, all the people will know how Jesus loves us.



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

