

WE ARE ONE BODY: TEAM MANAGEMENT

Sr. Clara Maria Malay, SCTJM

Spring, 2014

"As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you (1 Cor 12:20-25) This scripture calls to mind the Mystical Body of Christ as well as any group working together as a team. Each part of the team or body no matter how large or small plays an important role in the functioning of the body or team. A parish staff is not exempt from this call to unity for the building up of the body and the greater glory of God.



In order to accomplish this unity that is called for in a team or staff setting it is important to have as a foundation the same mind. As Christians we are all called to put on the mind of Christ, (1Cor 2:16) in some cases to denounce our own ways and seek His ways which are far above ours. Working with the same mind and the same heart will enhance the effectiveness of the team. The goals and objectives must be clear and all striving for the same goals in order to accomplish them together or they will be working against each other, as Paul writes to the Corinthians, "I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment." Division will stop the progress and set one another against each other. In order to work together effectively goals and objectives must be based in the same mind and the same heart as it was in the Early Church with the first Christians. "And all who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all as any had need." (Acts 2:44) Now this practice among all Christians did not remain although many communities of Christians still hold to this practice of sharing all their goods. It is a continual challenge to change one's perspective from the "I" to the good of the "we". As Pastor you may see this as an impossible task among your staff, with many diverse personalities present. But if all humbly place their gifts at the service of others and desire to submit for the greatest good of the community it can bring about unity even when opinions differ assuming there is open communication and good will. "As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." (1 Peter 4:10) And St. Paul teaches us in his letter to the Philippians 2:2, "Make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose."

Furthermore, team management and planning call for clear goals and objectives, open communication, fair leadership, recognition of performance, and strategic planning.¹ A pastor is responsible to implement or delegate these responsibilities to encourage the successful management of a parish. Although all of the details of management are important, the parish cannot turn into a fortune 500 company there needs to be a balance of depending on the Lord for our needs and being good stewards of what we have been given by God the Father. As Blessed, soon to be St. John Paul II said to the Austrian bishops, "Your first duty as pastors is not projects and organizations, but to lead your people to a deep intimacy with the Trinity." If you are witnessing a life of sanctity your parish and those you influence will follow. "Put first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be given on to you." (Mt 6:33)

¹ Fr. Anaeto, PS 805; Class notes, Lesson 10: Team Management and Planning, Spring 2014

[Back to Main Page of Teachings of SCTJM...](#)



Return to main page
www.piercedhearts.org