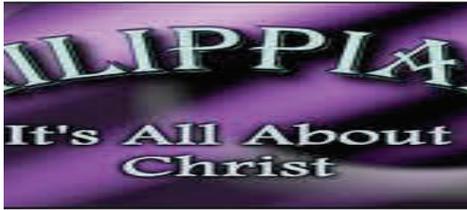




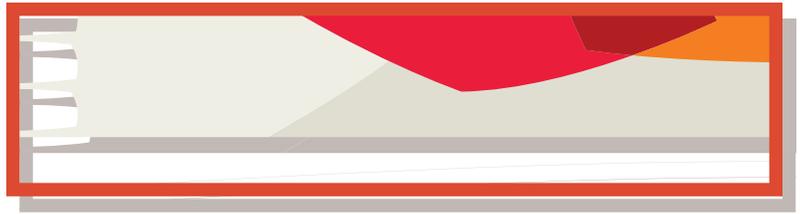
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# St. Paul *focus*

## IMPORTANCE OF TEAM MINISTRY BASED ON SAINT PAUL'S LETTERS WHILE IN PRISON

*Saint Paul did not always work alone; we know that he had helpers such as Titus, Timothy, and Barnabas. His collaborators helped him a great deal in advancing the Kingdom of God.*

## Helping you advance the Gospel

It was the encounter with Christ on the road to Damascus that converted Saint Paul from being a persecutor to being a great apostle of Christianity. As a matter of fact, next to Jesus Christ, Saint Paul is known worldwide as the most important person in the development of early Christianity. So often we need one another to affirm our calling by God and to strengthen us when we are called to follow what may seem impossible. We can always look at Saint Paul as an ardent disciple of Christ who helped advance the Good News of the Gospel by his example of life and great

zeal for the Church of Christ. Before his radical conversion, Paul was known as Saul. He was born in Tarsus, which is located in modern day Turkey. From what he reveals in his epistles, we can tell he was probably a tentmaker and a hard worker. Saint Paul was raised among the Jews, and Jesus Christ was a Jew. Being a Pharisee, helped Saint Paul because he studied under the famous Rabbi Gamaliel who was also a Pharisee. Therefore, Saint Paul was a well educated young man. The Pharisees were of the learned class and were considered the most educated elite in the Jewish world.



## HEART TO HEART DISCUSSION

- What are you presently doing to proclaim God's Kingdom on earth?
- Are you zealous as Saint Paul to spread the Good News of the Gospel to every creature?
- Are you willing to risk your life if you had to in order to win souls for Christ?
- What motivates you when it comes to your Catholic faith?
- How do you think you can grow with Saint Paul's example of true love for God?
- Are you willing to speak about the crucified Jesus with the boldness of Saint Paul?



# Getting the most from your team members

*Saint Paul had great team members, this is why he strongly believed in team ministry....*

Onesimus was the slave of Philemon, but Onesimus had run away from Him.

Perhaps guilty of theft in the process. Then, while hiding in Rome, Onesimus became a follower of Jesus. Paul, who was under house arrest in Rome was the one who converted One-

simus to Christ. Paul sends him back to his Master Philemon, with a letter asking him to welcome him back but not as a slave but as a brother in Christ. Paul suggests he would like to have

Onesimus work with him for the Gospel. In his letter to Philemon, Paul deals with an accepted institution of antiquity, human slavery.

**I give thanks to my God always, remembering you in my prayers, as I hear of the love and the faith you have in the Lord**

Together in Christ, we can accomplish great things. We just need to be One in Christ, One in Mind, One in Body. We can, therefore, effectively preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all creatures of the earth.

## PROCLAIMING CHRIST : Experience vs. Discipline



Saint Paul had plenty of experience, but he also exercised discipline. He became effective in his team ministry by recognizing the good in others. Trusting in his fellow brothers to deliver his message is what allowed Saint Paul to preach the Gospel while he was in imprisonment.



Sister Karla Maria Icaza, SCTJM

WEEK 1

VOLUME ONE

2013

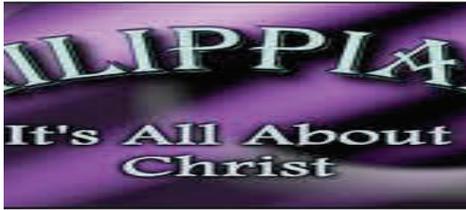




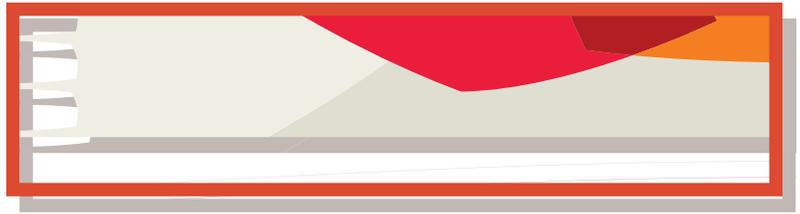
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# St. Paul *focus*

## IMPORTANCE OF TEAM MINISTRY BASED ON SAINT PAUL'S LETTERS WHILE IN PRISON

*Christ entrusted Saint Paul to go and preach the Gospel to the entire Gentile world, needless to say, this was a tremendous responsibility, which necessarily meant that Saint Paul needed to have a team in place. Saint Paul knew and understood the importance of team ministry, this is why he exercised it so effectively.*

## Helping you advance the Gospel

Saint Paul had difficulties along the way, but that never stopped him from spreading God's message to the world. It wasn't easy for him at the beginning, considering he didn't have all the technological advances which we have today.

Eventhough he had many obstacles, he still accomplished his overall mission and in an spectacular way. Saint Paul knew (especially while he was under house arrest) that the only possible way to deliver his message to all the Gentiles and non-Gentiles alike was through the help of his fellow workers in Christ, such as Titus,

Artemas, Tichicus, etc. We may ask ourselves how can we spread God's Kingdom today, well, in the same way that Saint Paul did it. Why reinvent the wheel? There is no need to . Saint Paul was an extraordinary disciple of Christ, and he was well aware of his gifts and limitations. All of you have gifts as well, and also impediments, but do not let that stop you from advancing God's Kingdom here on earth. Saint Paul was able to reach God's people through the help of a team of believers just like himself. These men were committed to the task at hand. To move forward, we must do the same.



## HEART TO HEART DISCUSSION

How can you gather a team of committed Christians brothers and sisters to help you in the mission of spreading God's Good News of the Gospel?

Why do you think team ministry is so important for this mission?

Do you think it is important to train solid, faithful men and women for Christ ?

We know that Saint Paul did not work alone, neither did Jesus, how can we become more zealous about the importance of working as a team for Christ?



What is a Team?

T: Together  
E: Everyone  
A: Accomplishes  
M: More

We want to reach more souls for Christ, then let us do it together as One Body.

# Getting the most from your team members

*Saint Paul had great committed team members, let's learn about Titus....*

Titus was a Gentile Christian. He went from Antioch with Paul and

**They claim to know God but by their deeds they deny him. Therefore, remind them of the kindness and generous love of God.**

Barnabas to Jerusalem. According to 2 Corinthians, he was with Saint Paul on his third missionary journey; his name, however, does not appear

in Acts. Besides being the bearer of Paul's severe letter to the Corinthians, he had the responsibility of taking up the collection in Corinth for the Christian community of Jerusalem. Titus is then sent to the Christian community of Crete as an administrator with the task of organizing it through the appointment of presbyters and bishops. Titus had

## PROCLAIMING CHRIST : Christian Behavior



For the grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of the great God and of our Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us.



Sister Karla Maria Icaza, SCTJM

WEEK 2

VOLUME TWO

2013

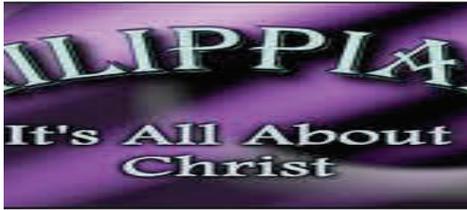




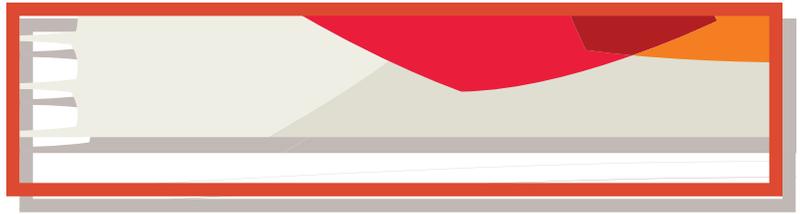
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# St. Paul

## focus

### IMPORTANCE OF TEAM MINISTRY BASED ON SAINT PAUL'S LETTERS WHILE IN PRISON

*Saint Paul spearheaded the proclamation of the Christian message to all the world. We know he did not work alone on this task, he had a phenomenal team (of trusted individuals) who helped him on this outstanding mission. But, how did he do it, who was guiding Him along the way? Let's find out .....*

## Helping you advance the Gospel

Saint Paul knew that to move forward with success on his mission, that he could not do it on his own, even though he was self-sufficient, he did not boast on this truth, but rather, on the contrary, he knew he needed help from above. Therefore, he allowed himself to be guided by the Holy Spirit, who was the One who placed all these wonderful individuals on his way to become members of Saint Paul's team-ministry.

This shows us how Saint Paul trusted blindly the Holy Spirit, to act in him freely and without any obstacles placed in his

heart. Saint Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things in him who strengthens me". This sentence summarizes everything for us, especially when we feel we cannot evangelize on our own anymore. Saint Paul reminds us, first of all, that we are not alone on this earthly journey, and secondly, that if we put our faith and trust in God alone, He will strengthen us.

Saint Paul is a great example of a team leader, someone his fellow brothers in Christ trusted, for they knew who Saint Paul was preaching, but they also knew the



### HEART TO HEART DISCUSSION

When we become discouraged on this journey, who do we turn to?

Do we have the leadership qualities which Saint Paul possesses in order to be effective team leaders? And, if we don't, do we ask God to give us those gifts, or allow others to use their gifts?

How can we be more effective in our team ministry here in our own parish?

How can we encourage others to join us in our mission of evangelizing the world for Christ?



# Getting the most from your team members

***Saint Paul had great committed team members, let's learn about Tychicus...***

Tychicus was a Gentile believer and a native from Asia. He travelled with Saint Paul as did many of the other team members. He also accompanied Saint Paul with Trophimus on a part of his journey from Macedonia to Jerusalem. He is also alluded to have

**“ Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you.”  
(Hebrews 13:5)**

been with Paul in Rome, where the apostle sent him to Ephesus, probably for the purpose of building up and encouraging the church there. In the New Testament, he is mentioned five times. Saint Paul used to call him (as well as his other team members) a brother and faithful servant in the Lord. It's important to note, that all of them were faithful.

What made Saint Paul's faithful brothers in Christ so successful in their team ministry? Without a doubt, their love for Christ, but also their docile hearts to be at the service of the Gospel, willing to do whatever it takes to serve Christ and each other.

**PROCLAIMING CHRIST :**  
Sending Trustworthy Ministers



Saint Paul sent Tychicus to Ephesus with the following message: "So that you also may have news of me and of what I am doing. Tychicus, my beloved brother and trustworthy minister in the Lord, will tell you everything. I am sending him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us and that he may encourage your hearts."



Sister Karla Maria Icaza, SCTJM

WEEK 3

VOLUME THREE 2013

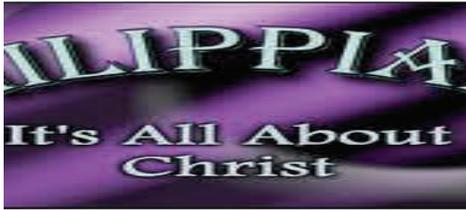




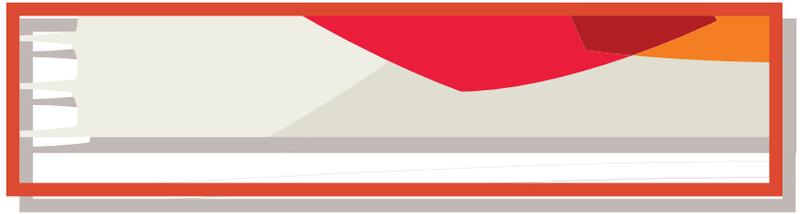
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# St. Paul *focus*

## IMPORTANCE OF TEAM MINISTRY BASED ON SAINT PAUL'S LETTERS WHILE IN PRISON

*Saint Paul involved everyone in his team ministry of evangelization, and he trusted them wholeheartedly. Saint Paul knew that if Jesus needed 12 apostles to start His Church, that he was also going to be needing key players on his team to bring the Good News of Christ. Let us read on to see how Saint Paul trained and engaged these faithful men to stay focused .....*

## Helping you advance the Gospel

Although Saint Paul was exceptionally talented, he knew he needed others to help him with the task at hand. These men, in turn also knew they needed Saint Paul. For example, he needed Titus in Crete, then he needed him in another place. He needed Tychicus in Ephesus, and so on with the others.

Saint Paul trained them extremely well, that if he had to take them out of a certain city, in order to sent them somewhere else for another mission, he knew these men were ready for the task. These were faithful, loyal, dedicated, trustworthy men. Saint

Paul knew that if he sent them anywhere, it was similar to sending himself. This is why when he would send them with their letters, most of the time, Saint Paul will say: "Accept him as you would accept me".

Here, we can think of our Lord Jesus Christ, when he sent his 12 apostles to begin the Church, Saint Peter was the visible Head of the Church, but he knew God needed him for this particular mission, so off he went and on his first preaching mission, 3000 people converted to the faith. Discipleship and loyalty always will lead us closer to Christ and to His people.



## HEART TO HEART DISCUSSION

Do we engage others to become team members in our parish ministries?

Do we train them appropriately so they will be able to be sent anywhere where they will be most needed?

Do we trust in God completely to know that He is the One in charge of giving us the necessary graces to spread His Word to the world?

Do we invite others to become actively involved in our parish, and not just on Sundays?



# Getting the most from your team members

*Saint Paul had admirable, enthusiastic, loyal, faithful brothers and sisters in Christ, let's learn about Artemas, Apollos, Priscilla and others..*

Artemas was a biblical figure. He was known as one of the Seventy Disciples. He is mentioned in Paul's Epistle to Titus. His name is to be believed to be a Gentile name. It is also believed that He served as the Bishop of Lystra. Probably Artemas replaced Titus at

*" I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingly power: proclaim the Word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience*

Apollos was a Jew from Alexandria. He served in the churches of Ephesus and Corinth. Priscilla and Aquila were the first century missionary

**PROCLAIMING CHRIST : FORMING LEADERS**



Saint Paul was constantly forming leaders, he knew he had to. Otherwise, who were the ones who were going to take his place when he died. Saint Paul was not selfish at all, he shared his gifts and talents with his fellow workers/brothers in Christ. Saint Paul exhorted them and encouraged them to be faithful witnesses of Christ.

What made Saint. Paul such an effective team leader?  
 First of all, his love for God and his living his faith coherently. But, also, with his example, he was forming other leaders. He motivated them constantly and reminded them that they were not alone on this journey."



Sister Karla Maria Icaza, SCTJM

WEEK 4

VOLUME FOUR 2013

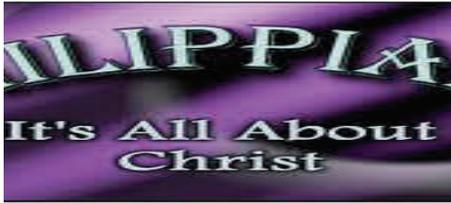




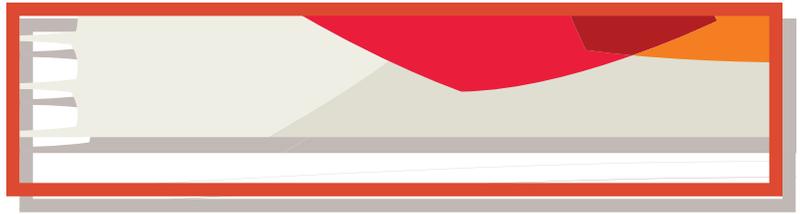
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# St. Paul *focus*

## IMPORTANCE OF TEAM MINISTRY BASED ON SAINT PAUL'S LETTERS WHILE IN PRISON

*Since all eternity Christ chose Saint Paul to be his messenger, his faithful disciple. God chose the one who had persecuted Christians and killed them for being Christians. He was there present when they stoned Saint Stephen to death. He was a part of it all. Despite all of this, God chose him because He knew what Saint Paul was capable of accomplishing great things.*

## Helping you advance the Gospel

The more we learn about Saint Paul, the more we love him. What an extraordinary man! No wonder, after Christ, he is known as the most important person in spreading Christ's message to all the world.

He was amazing ! And, he shows us how he did it.

He didn't pretend that he could do it all alone. He was humble enough to recognize he needed others to help him along this long journey. He and his fellow brothers had to walk to most of these places, they didn't have the luxuries or comforts we have in today's world. They probably took

months to go from one place to another.

But Saint Paul was relentless he didn't believe in wasting any time, especially when it came to preaching the Gospel. He was consistent, he kept his team in place at all times, continuously motivating them. Exhorting them nonstop.

This is the key to building a phenomenal team. Constantly motivating them from the heart. Saint Paul was zealous, he knew what he had to do and he did it exceptionally well. He knew what God expected of him after the life he had lived before, he knew God had great plans for him.



## HEART TO HEART DISCUSSION

How can I motivate the team members in our parish to become more zealous for the Word of God?

Speaking straight from the heart, how does Saint Paul's example of life moves me to want to give more of myself to the mission of spreading God's Kingdom on earth and to serve others unconditionally?

Saint Paul believed wholeheartedly in team ministry, how can I imitate him in this?



# Getting the most from team ministry

*Saint Paul called his followers to be on God's team, this is fundamental in their zeal for spreading the truth about Jesus Christ. It is essential for team ministry to accept each other's gifts and share them.*

What made Saint Paul's followers so on fire for the Lord?

Besides their love for the Lord, it was their fellowship with their brothers and sisters in Christ. They did not do anything for their own glory, everything they did was for God's glory.

Everyone in Saint Paul's team was valuable and treasured. Saint Paul was aware of the urgent need to proclaim Christ to all the ends of the earth. Therefore, he perceived God's wisdom in order to act the way he did. Saint Paul was a very

**"What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love Him."**

humble man, he saw himself as an unworthy servant of God, and this is precisely the key to a successful ministry. To think of others first, to serve others, and not expected to be served. Christ, Himself is the best example of what a true servant is all about. Saint Paul fell in love with Christ and this is evident in his unparalleled zeal for the salvation of souls. He

**PROCLAIMING CHRIST : Zeal for the Lord**



Saint Paul's zeal is contagious. There is no doubt that it was his zeal that first attracted his fellow team members to him. They wanted to see what this zeal was all about. This zeal had a name, Jesus Christ, and He is the One who transmitted it to Saint Paul. If we ask the Lord, He will give us this zeal.



Sister Karla Maria Icaza, SCTJM

WEEK 5

VOLUME FIVE

2013

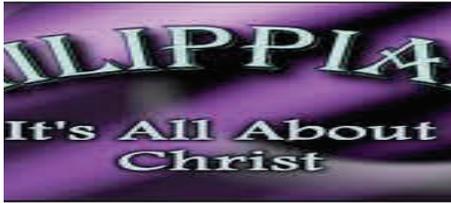




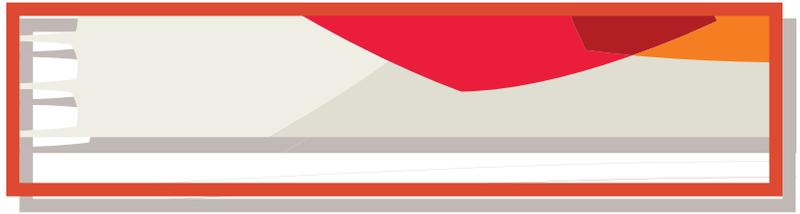
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# St. Paul

## focus

### IMPORTANCE OF TEAM MINISTRY BASED ON SAINT PAUL'S LETTERS WHILE IN PRISON

*God encouraged team ministry with his own disciples, he always sent them in pairs, two by two's. He never sent anyone on a mission alone. Christ understood the importance of being in God's team, either we are with Him or we are against Him. This is so evident when it came to Saint Paul's conversion: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me", in other words, why are you against me. And, from that moment on, he became a member of God's team, his true follower. Praise God for his conversion.....*

## Helping you advance the Gospel

To advance the Gospel, we cannot work alone. We need to have committed team members willing to do whatever it takes to win souls for Christ. Each one in team ministry has an important role to fulfill. Each one has been individually called by God to go and preach the Gospel to all the ends of the earth.

Saint Paul's team members truly took their mission to heart. They knew they needed to be responsible in this major undertaking. And, this is why Saint Paul confided in them. Team ministry is about accountability and responsibility (which they go hand

in hand). Saint Paul recognized he had accountable people, he knew he had responsible people, otherwise he would have never sent them on a mission (alone) or take them on a missionary journey with him.

Saint Paul exhorted his team members to do good deeds, because he truly believed this pleased God very much, and indeed, he, himself was a great example of doing good deeds. If you are going to be a true follower of Jesus Christ, then you must perform good deeds (but not to be seen) on a daily basis and to every single person.



## HEART TO HEART DISCUSSION

- How can you challenge your team members to do good deeds on a daily basis?
- Team ministry is not about the numbers, is about the quality of the members, how can you recruit great team members from your parish?
- Are you a person of a deep prayer life?
- Do you love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, body, and soul?
- How can you increase your commitment to Christ on a daily basis?



# Getting the most

*Saint Paul trusted his team members with all his life. He knew he could count on Timothy, Titus, Apollos, Priscilla, Aquila, Artemas, Tychicus, and many more. It was a two-way street, he trusted them, and they trusted Him.*

Saint Paul was always concerned about others.

This is to be admired. That is what true team ministry is all

about. True concern for one another, especially to those whom the Lord has placed in your way. Do not be afraid to be the last

member on the team, you are still valuable. In team

ministry, there is always going to be someone who knows more than you do, this is inevitable, however, focus on the gifts you all have, rather than on your weaknesses. Encourage one another like

Saint Paul did with his fellow workers. Spent time together to pray and to come up with different strategies.

**“Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God’s upward calling, in Christ Jesus.”**

## PROCLAIMING CHRIST : Total Trust in the Lord



Saint Paul suffered much. He suffered many hardships along the way. He suffered persecution, to the point of been imprisoned for Christ and His Church.

Throughout all his trials and sufferings, Saint Paul trusted God, and that is what kept him going. He knew he had placed all his trust on God, and He was never going to let him down.



Sister Karla Maria Icaza, SCTJM

WEEK 6

VOLUME SIX 2013

