

## Christ the King

We celebrate the great feast of Christ the King: Our Servant Leader. Let us think, reflect and meditate on the fact that today's world needs servant leadership more than ever before!

The term "servant leader" was first coined by Robert K. Greenleaf in 1970 in the essay "The Servant as Leader." What does it mean to be a servant leader? What are the qualities of a servant leader?

"The servant-leader is a servant first, with the natural feeling that she/he wants to **serve**, to serve first, and not to be served. A servant leader desires to serve and wants the growth of an individual, genuinely caring, mission-oriented, effective, charismatic decision-maker, empowering, challenging, encouraging, wanting the good of the other individual/family/community; sharing power; puts the needs of others first and helps them to develop and perform to the best of their capacities and abilities; power to make decisions; building self-confidence and collaborating skills. A servant leader is a good listener, great communicator, role model, empathetic, foresight, visionary, leading from the front, healer, committed, transparent, supportive, accountable, authentic, honest, trusting, delegates responsibilities, open to feedback, intuitive, and influences others positively. Only servant leadership can **change** the World!

Jesus came to serve and not to be served. In Mark 10:45, Jesus Christ described Himself as a servant, when He said, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve." Jesus Christ modelled servanthood when He came to dwell among us as a man. He became a servant when He obeyed God's will. He was a servant when He washed the feet of His disciples.

**Servant Elect:** In Isaiah 42:1 - "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; He will bring forth justice to the nations." Jesus is a King who is also a servant, a slave occupying the lowest rung on the socio-political ladder of all time. He rules not by asserting earthly power, or by manipulating the opinions of others, but by accepting the will of His Father and by giving His life as a ransom for our sins, therefore He is called, 'HIS Servant Elect'.

**Servant Leader:** In SCCs, whether Coordinator, Joint Coordinator or Animator, I am **chosen** by the Lord for this particular **Mission**, and at this point of time! What is my attitude towards my people, whom HE has entrusted me to serve; is it one of service or wanting to be served? Do I want my people to be dependent on me at all times, or am I ready to empower them? Can I be a little more like Jesus in my relationship with people, or am I judging, condemning and labelling others at all times, leaving no space for me to reach out in love and service? Am I interested in the growth of the people entrusted to my care, lifting them from their pain and misery - not just physical, but also spiritual, intellectual and emotional? Am I afraid to love as Jesus loved and desire the wellbeing of my people? When in service, am I open and sensitive to see that 'No one is in want' in my SCC and parish?

"The difference manifests itself in the care taken by the servant – first to make sure that other people's highest priority needs are being served. The best test, and difficult to administer, is: Do those served grow as persons? Do they, while being served, become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, more likely themselves to become servants? And what is the effect on the least privileged in society? Will they benefit, or at least not be further deprived?"

There is no attribute of leadership that Jesus did not model as He trained His disciples. We cannot go wrong by following His example. Leading like Jesus will make a profound **difference** in our life and in the lives of those we influence!

**Questions for Reflection:**

1. Who is a king? What image do I have of a king? Does Jesus fit my image of a king?
2. Am I ready to follow the ways of servant-leadership of Jesus my King?
3. I am chosen by the Lord at this time and for a specific period to serve HIS people. Am I ready to take up the challenge to change my perceptions, attitudes, beliefs, behaviour, feelings towards the people I am called to serve?