

Keys to Leadership

Leadership is rooted in an inner authority that respects the unique life of others and encourages that unique life to reach out for something still greater. To have this inner authority, we must be “educated educators,” that is, someone who is already “on the road” to forming his own life and knowing that this gives me the foundation for understanding others and leading them to great goals. In a word: if I am working on my own growth, I can help others grow. The foundation stones of this education are the core Christian values of *freedom* and *love*.

A **good leader in Christ** will, of course, be *anchored in God*. Let your leadership be inspired by prayer, frequent reception of the sacraments, and a personal relationship with Mary in the covenant of love.

A. *Qualities of a Leader*

1. Love and respect each person as a unique child of God.
2. Encourage and try to bring out the best in each one and group.
3. Be enthusiastic and have both feet on the ground.
4. Put the needs of each person ahead of your own.
5. Be able to adapt.
6. Be a good listener, patient and understanding.
7. Practice what you preach.
8. Have sound values and a firm sense of right and wrong.
9. Radiate a positive outlook on life.
10. Be firm and fair and know how to set limits.
11. Have faith in God and faith in the goodness of youth.
12. Pray for the ones God has entrusted to you.

B. *Wisdom for Effective Leaders*

- Promote team spirit among the leaders. Learn from each other rather than make everyone go it alone.
- Don't be afraid to admit a mistake or that you don't know everything.
- Delegate responsibilities. Get others involved.
- The team is more important than the players. No one person is so important that he can replace the team. “We win when the team wins.”
- Important as teamwork is, goals are even more important than the team. Our goal is to help the person God has given us to learn to educate themselves to become firm, free, priestly personalities, and to help them develop deep attachments to God, Mary, self, and others.

Rules. Let the people clearly know what you expect of them. Rules are best if they are brief, to the point, and stated in a positive manner. They must be fair and consistently enforced.

Positive reinforcement. Help maintain order with a positive attitude. Praise and encouragement helps prevent trouble before it starts.

Know when you're in over your head. If you realize you're in over your head, refer the person and the situation to a more competent authority.