



SERVANT LEADERSHIP

One of the founding principles of Pax Christi Catholic Community is lay leadership, and it remains an essential value. As stated by the Second Vatican Council, the Church is the People of God, the community of the baptized. In collaboration with the ordained, we the baptized hold responsibility as lay leaders for the life and the mission of the Church. Our call is to lead and walk alongside members of our community when we can, each according to our unique set of abilities.

When we say “lay leadership” we mean servant leadership. The best example of servant leadership is Jesus: “...So if I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.” [John 13:12-15]

You may be thinking “what does servant leader really mean? Do I have what it takes to be a servant leader?” Let me try to answer by sharing what I’ve observed and experienced from other parish leaders in my two terms on council.

A servant leader is dedicated to the mission and values of Pax Christi. A servant leader brings commitment and passion to helping others in this community. A servant leader is good at listening and speaking thoughtfully. A servant leader inspires others, not only fellow members of the council, but also fellow parishioners. A servant leader leads with empathy, understanding where others are and

recognizing that each of us is living out our own journey, sometimes in pain of one kind or another. A servant leader delegates and empowers council members, because no one can do it alone. A servant leader is creative and innovative and helps create an environment in which fellow council members can be so as well. A servant leader makes decisions and does so in a collegial and collaborative way.

That’s not all. A servant leader builds community, fostering and maintaining relationships. A servant leader dedicates oneself to lifelong learning. A humble leader grows spiritually, realizing more when working with others that God is present in each one of us. By utilizing talents on behalf of others, a servant leader helps make Pax Christi present and fruitful in the community.

We invite you to discern for a Pax Christi council. There are more details, and applications on the Lay Leadership page on the Pax Christi website at www.paxchristi.com. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at dputrich@comcast.net or by phone at 612-839-7820, or you may also contact Maura Schnorbach, Director of Development and Engagement at mschnorbach@paxchristi.com.

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