



INSTITUTE FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

The Saint Paul Seminary

Contemplative Leadership: Integrating Faith Practices into Educational Leadership

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Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.

Matthew 28:19-20

What is Contemplative Practice?

- **Contemplative leaders reflect on their own leadership through the lens of faith**
- **Contemplative leaders make decisions with the heart and mind of the Church**
- **Contemplative leaders give witness to the Gospel through their leadership**

The Three levels of reflection in contemplative leadership

- **Technical Reflection:**
 - What is going on?
- **Interpretive Reflection:**
 - What is being communicated by what is going on?
- **Critical Reflection:**
 - How does my faith guide my decisions and/or reactions to what is going on?

Put first things first and we get second things
thrown in: put second things first and we lose
both first and second things.

C.S. Lewis (*Collected Letters, Vol. III*)

Three Pillars of Contemplative Practice

Prayer & The Sacraments



Prayer & Sacraments Turn & Share

- What is the importance of prayer in your leadership practice right now? What kinds of prayer do you find most helpful/fruitful?
- What role do prayer and the sacraments play in the life of your school?
- How can we/do we serve as the spiritual leaders of our schools?

Church Teaching



Church Teaching Turn & Share

- What resources do I, as a school leader, have (or would like to have) to grow deeper in my understanding of the Catholic faith?
- What opportunities does my school/parish provide for ongoing faith formation for faculty and staff?
- Share a time where your leadership was an act of Christian witness.

Christian Friendship



Christian Friendship Turn & Share

- Who is this/those friend(s) for you?
- What do you do to intentionally build friends who push you to excellence professionally and personally?
- Can you think of a time when a friend really helped you to improve your leadership?

A Catholic School leader's decision reflects their vocation within the Church's educational ministry and confirms coherence with the distinctive mission of a Catholic school.

Dr. Mimi

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