

Wisdom for Leading

'Love is the only power that is real'

(Fr Michael)

Love challenges us to inquire widely and appreciatively, ask bold questions and widen the circle of participation.

Authentic presence is the key to collective responsibility and collective action. Presence is a type of consciousness which causes you to awaken authentically to yourself and to the other in your relationships. (Tolle, 2005, pp. 6-7)

You are the presence of the love of Jesus within you. You are not just a witness to it, you are it! (Fr Michael)

'It is the art of belonging to one's soul that keeps one's presence aflame.' (O'Donohue, *Eternal Echoes*, p. 68)

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Be passionate for the moral purpose to which you have been called. Based on moral purpose, practice compassionate disruption to engage emergent possibilities (Holman, p. 157) or create *blessed unrest*.

Be prepared to walk on the edge. Leadership is a challenge and you have to be prepared to step outside your comfort zone.

Listen to the 'outliers' and the '*fringe dwellers*'. Conformists rarely change the world or even themselves.

Listen carefully to each other, especially with your heart, because the sources of great practical wisdom can be found in the most unexpected people and places.

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Don't try to put the pieces of the *status quo* back together, even in a new form. 'What arises from creative interactions is not a return to former times.' (Holman, p. 171)

Wisdom means 'to see, to know the way' and it constitutes '*the realisation of knowledge in life giving ways - for self, others, and the world.*' (Groome, 1998, p. 288)

Abolish the blaming game

Don't blame people

Don't blame circumstances

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Offer a space where people are encouraged to disarm themselves, lay aside their occupations and preoccupations and listen with attention and care to their voices speaking in their own centre. (Henri Nouwen)

Mother Teresa:

"You can do what I cannot do. I can do what you cannot do. Together, we can do great things. This is the result of partnership in Jesus".

God bless you all in your ministries, your leadership and in your life's journey.