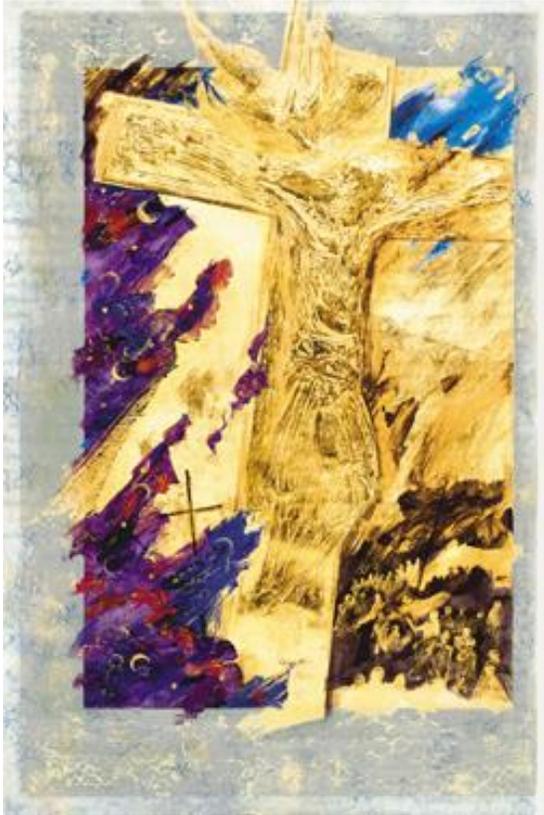


# *Lenten Reflections*

*April 18, 2019*



The concept of servant leadership has been adapted to business and social sciences. One might not be aware that it comes directly from the gospel of John: “Jesus got up from the table... poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet.”

The greatest part of the servant leadership model is that servant leaders put others and their needs first. Servant leaders encourage and inspire other people to follow in their footsteps to make a difference. This style fosters relationships which replace a hierarchical scale of superiority. This is the type of leadership that we need in our world today.

At the same time, it is not an easy thing to apply it in our life. The servant model implies that leaders operate in an inverted pyramid of power. When people are in high positions of power, they can control others. They may find it difficult to share the power they have. On the other hand, giving up the power, a servant leader may have a hard time being taken seriously. From the executive viewpoint, even the first step of bringing everyone to an agreement regarding common goals does not seem to be feasible, if attainable at all.

Yet, Jesus has given us a model to follow. Will you risk doing so?

Is servant leadership your style? How do you think you would experience being in a position of servant leadership? What would be your greatest challenge while functioning as a servant leader?

To what extent is servant leadership practiced in our social institutions (family, religions, business, education, and government)? How would any or all of these institutions be different if all leaders subscribed to servant leadership?

*Reflection contributed by students enrolled in **Global Citizenship in the Franciscan Tradition**; Aasiyah Alston '21, Jieun Lee '20 and Valeria Perez '22*

**Holy Thursday – Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper**  
**Lectionary: 39**

**Reading 1**     [EX 12:1-8, 11-14](#)

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt,  
"This month shall stand at the head of your calendar;  
you shall reckon it the first month of the year.  
Tell the whole community of Israel:  
On the tenth of this month every one of your families  
must procure for itself a lamb, one apiece for each household.  
If a family is too small for a whole lamb,  
it shall join the nearest household in procuring one  
and shall share in the lamb  
in proportion to the number of persons who partake of it.  
The lamb must be a year-old male and without blemish.  
You may take it from either the sheep or the goats.  
You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month,  
and then, with the whole assembly of Israel present,  
it shall be slaughtered during the evening twilight.  
They shall take some of its blood  
and apply it to the two doorposts and the lintel  
of every house in which they partake of the lamb.  
That same night they shall eat its roasted flesh  
with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

"This is how you are to eat it:  
with your loins girt, sandals on your feet and your staff in hand,  
you shall eat like those who are in flight.  
It is the Passover of the LORD.  
For on this same night I will go through Egypt,  
striking down every firstborn of the land, both man and beast,  
and executing judgment on all the gods of Egypt—I, the LORD!  
But the blood will mark the houses where you are.  
Seeing the blood, I will pass over you;  
thus, when I strike the land of Egypt,  
no destructive blow will come upon you.

"This day shall be a memorial feast for you,  
which all your generations shall celebrate  
with pilgrimage to the LORD, as a perpetual institution."

**Responsorial Psalm**     [PS 116:12-13, 15-16BC, 17-18](#)

R. (cf. 1 Cor 10:16) **Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.**  
How shall I make a return to the LORD  
for all the good he has done for me?  
The cup of salvation I will take up,

and I will call upon the name of the LORD.

**R. Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.**

Precious in the eyes of the LORD

is the death of his faithful ones.

I am your servant, the son of your handmaid;

you have loosed my bonds.

**R. Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.**

To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving,

and I will call upon the name of the LORD.

My vows to the LORD I will pay

in the presence of all his people.

**R. Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.**

**Reading 2**      [1 COR 11:23-26](#)

Brothers and sisters:

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you,

that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over,

took bread, and, after he had given thanks,

broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying,

"This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,

you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

**Verse Before The Gospel**      [JN 13:34](#)

I give you a new commandment, says the Lord:

love one another as I have loved you.

**Gospel**      [JN 13:1-15](#)

Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come

to pass from this world to the Father.

He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end.

The devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over.

So, during supper,

fully aware that the Father had put everything into his power

and that he had come from God and was returning to God,

he rose from supper and took off his outer garments.

He took a towel and tied it around his waist.

Then he poured water into a basin

and began to wash the disciples' feet

and dry them with the towel around his waist.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him,

"Master, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus answered and said to him,  
"What I am doing, you do not understand now,  
but you will understand later."  
Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet."  
Jesus answered him,  
"Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me."  
Simon Peter said to him,  
"Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well."  
Jesus said to him,  
"Whoever has bathed has no need except to have his feet washed,  
for he is clean all over;  
so you are clean, but not all."  
For he knew who would betray him;  
for this reason, he said, "Not all of you are clean."

So when he had washed their feet  
and put his garments back on and reclined at table again,  
he said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you?  
You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am.  
If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet,  
you ought to wash one another's feet.  
I have given you a model to follow,  
so that as I have done for you, you should also do."