

What makes leadership of a Catholic school different ?



The World's view of the child?

- An economic unit
- A statistic
- A competitor
- A future tax payer
- A future (and present day!) consumer

What do you see when you look at the child?



What do you see when you look at the child?

- A cutey?
- A hard worker?
- Someone who is deprived?
- His or her race?
- A problem?
- An unexploded bomb?

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Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.

And even the hairs on your head have been counted.

You are chosen race, a royal priesthood.....

Every parent too is a gift from God.





Every parent too, is created in His image.

Catholic Social Teaching

- THE HUMAN PERSON IS SACRED.
- THE HUMAN PERSON IS SOCIAL.
- EVERY PERSON HAS A RIGHT TO THE BASIC NEEDS OF LIFE.
- EVERY PERSON HAS A CORRESPONDING DUTY TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS.
- WE PUT THE NEEDS OF THE LEAST AMONG US FIRST.
- WORK HAS DIGNITY. WORKERS HAVE RIGHTS TO FAIR WAGES, PROPERTY, AND UNIONS.
- WE ARE OUR BROTHERS' AND SISTERS' KEEPERS, CALLED TO SOLIDARITY AS A HUMAN FAMILY.
- WE CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION AND PROTECT THE EARTH.
- WE WORK FOR PEACE, WHICH IS BASED IN JUSTICE.

“Our Catholic schools.....are called to proclaim and affirm that we are all created in the image of God, that Christ restores the image of God that is disfigured from original sin onwards and that through baptism, we are formed into the likeness of Christ, who is ‘the image of the invisible God.’ The work of the Catholic School is to call forth each person’s unique God- given gifts in the love and service of both God and others.” (The 5 Ws Framework 2015)

How can we as leaders ensure that what happens in school reflects Catholic Social Teaching?



“God’s imagination is waiting to be discovered, hiding everywhere and in everyone. True catechesis is about revealing this extravagant omni-presence of God.”


“The holy task of the educator is not so much to fill their heads with new information, thus neglecting their original wholeness, but rather to lead them, as a mother does a baby, to the edge of their own divine possibilities.”

Daniel O’Leary: Begin with the heart

How does this affect our leadership?

- Vision of the child
- Curriculum
- Teaching and learning approaches
- Link between Prayer and Worship element
- Massively influences the 'ethos' of the school

How might we, as leaders encourage the Sacramental imagination /vision in children and staff?

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- **Bringing the community together in prayer**
 - **Worshipping God together**
 - **Ensuring many ways of expressing prayer**
 - **Moments of stillness**

- **Exposure to the Word of God**
- **Providing Christian role models**
- **Working with the clergy, reinforcing their messages of hope**
- **Finding opportunities to reach parents spiritually.**

Share any experiences you have had in school and say what positive effect, if any, it had on your work.

Share any initiatives you would like to develop in your role as a spiritual leader.

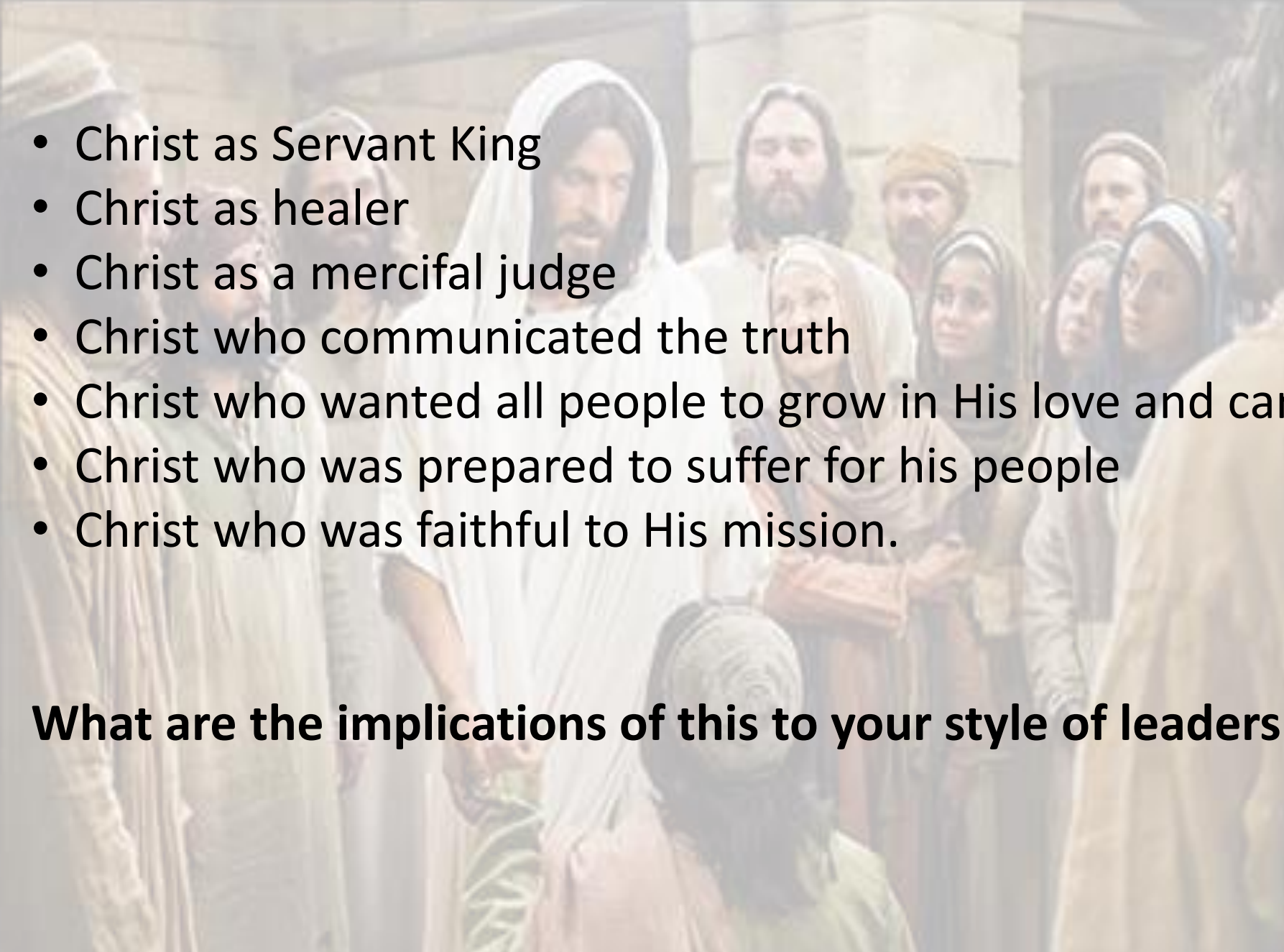
Is this an area you find difficult? Share this honestly with colleagues.

What makes Catholic Leadership easier?

- **Parish Community**
- **Shared values of families and staff through faith**
- **Cultivating our own prayer life**
- **The Sacraments: Eucharist; Reconciliation**
- **The resilience that comes from a strong faith**





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- Christ as Servant King
 - Christ as healer
 - Christ as a merciful judge
 - Christ who communicated the truth
 - Christ who wanted all people to grow in His love and care
 - Christ who was prepared to suffer for his people
 - Christ who was faithful to His mission.

What are the implications of this to your style of leadership?

In Him I have found
A heart of a King,
A heart of a friend
A heart of a brother.

(St. Richard of Chichester)

