

Role of Leadership

How do I determine and leverage my level of influence within pastoral leadership?

- Determine your influence → look at your job description, have honest conversations with your supervisor, live into the wealth of experience you bring to the table, and share your ideas. Encourage conversations, but also recognize your sphere of influence.
- Leverage your influence → “multiply your mindset” in others by spending time in conversation, discussing your points of view, LISTENING, and develop relationships with the “gatekeepers/influencers” for movement in your community.
- Ensure you set realistic expectations for yourself in order to set parameters for your own self-care and well being.
- Do your due diligence! Seize moments of influence! Work hard. Be confident in your delivery. Pray hard. Be smart.

How do we manage working with others in leadership who may not share our vision for ministry?

- Don't assume you are “right” and they are “wrong”. In all conversations, remember at your core, that God values them and we must return the same value. Always put your heart before the Lord and trust, even if there is disagreement.
- Everyone has different gifts. At the end of the day, we must call to mind everyone is doing the best they can with what they have in front of them. We must challenge ourselves to look for the giftedness in them, affirm their personhood as a child of God, and seek to unpack the insights they may have about a situation.
- Guiding Post for the journey: When disagreements arise, it is crucial to engage in these difficult conversations. These conversations often lead to a deeper understanding, new learnings, and allow for the movement of the Holy Spirit to guide the process vs. our own desires and agendas.
- You're in ministry. You work with people. Use your people skills to understand, to challenge, and to strengthen with TACT.

How can I hone my advocacy skills so that I am best able to play a part in parish renewal?

- Ask people what they need to represent them accurately.
- Spend time with people to understand their needs. Actively LISTEN!
- Speak for the needs of those who cannot speak.
- Manage how you present yourself: understand how you are being received
- Prepare: have substance in your presentations and advocacy moments
- Recognize: There are all kinds of personalities sitting “around a table”. Work on your relationships with your peers in leadership settings and seek to never be “THAT” person who is received as overly brazen or the person who automatically is not listened to.
- Pray about this. God will give you everything you need to serve right now. The Lord is anointing over your life.

