

DELEGATING-some challenges!

It was pointed out to me many years ago; *“that the mark of human greatness is seen in what people leave behind for others to follow”*. So, it is a fair comment to make that the trait of great parents is seen in the well-balanced children they have nurtured over time. For a civil leader it is seen in the sense of community they have nurtured based on justice and service for all people who they have been chosen to represent.

It is a fair comment to make that most people find delegating authority to others difficult, perhaps for a number of reasons. One of them is often the desire to keep things under their own control, or that they may genuinely lack confidence in delegating authority to people.

As we go through the Gospels Jesus of Nazareth had no problems at all in delegating authority to his followers, from the beginning he surrounded himself with all types of people. Like any great leader he consistently looked more at what people could become under his influence more than where they were at in life. In time he said to them things like this; *“Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men.”* Of course, he knew in doing this there would be mistakes made, defections and scandals created. Yet he knew not to have a succession plan would be disastrous, the same reality exists now for his followers both individually and collectively! *Fr Martin R Maunsell*