

TOUGH & EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP!

Last year a friend of mine who has been slowly recovering from a muscle wasting disease candidly said to me (with a big smile on his face); *“Each week for the hour when I see my personal trainer, I hate her as she forces me to move my body in places that it does not want to go, yet if I don’t, I won’t get better.”*

The same logic was once revealed when a retiring Harvard University president was what he considered to be essential in being a good leader. Without he said hesitation; *“The willingness to inflict necessary pain on people.”* This is a direct way of saying that good leadership necessitates a sense of constant and real courage of speaking the uncompromising truth on people while being prepared to be unpopular in doing so.

Of course, if an effective leader is going to be treated seriously then they need to be a model of living the truth they want to convey. It was once said to me that there is no-one more uninspiring in life than an unreformed reformer!

Jesus of Nazareth was definitely a tough and effective leader of people who *pulled no punches* in making it clear what was necessary in following him. A case in point was when he said, *“if anyone wants to be a follower of mine then they must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”*
(Matthew Chapter 16 verse 24) *Fr Martin R Maunsell*