

LEADERSHIP-some observations!

Over the last 35 years I have had the opportunity to observe closely 2 types of leaders, they being some of the Catholic bishops and also some Catholic school principals especially in the archdiocese of Sydney.

There are some common traits in each of these leaders, the first is that I'm sure none of them when they began their respective vocation would have anticipated where in time it would lead them to. What has often happened is that people already in positions of church and school leadership would have noticed their vocational stability and their potential leadership skills and when openings appeared encouraged them to apply for them.

Another trait of an effective church or school leader is that they be role models in being dedicated to their own position so that when they speak of standards that other people are to uphold there is no contradiction. I was once told that there is no one more uninspiring in life than an unreformed reformer!

A third aspect of leadership that I have noticed is that they need to readily adapt to changing circumstances of people coming and going and even political situations changing that influence their mission.

Jesus of Nazareth was an outstanding leader, what he said he lived with absolute integrity, even his enemies could not dispute that! He makes the poignant point for any leader to remember; *"to whom much has been given much will be required."* (Luke Chapter 12 verse 48) *Fr Martin R Maunsell*