



Making Decision as a Chapter Service Team

2/8/2021

Magnificat, A Ministry to Catholic Women

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Magnificat is dedicated to Mary, Mother of God and model for all Christians. Inspired by the beautiful encounter between Mary and her cousin, Elizabeth, as recorded in Luke 1:39-56, Magnificat seeks to re-enact that Spirit-filled meeting in today's world by providing opportunities for women to grow closer to God through association with each other.

Growth in holiness is our primary goal, and this involves the diligent pursuit of virtue with the aid of God's ever present and abundant grace. It is not that we have reached this goal, but we continue to "run toward the prize to which God calls us - life on high in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14)

How exemplary and blameless must our conduct be! Not only all the women who come to Magnificat seeking to pattern their lives on the example of Our Lady, but most especially the women who have accepted a leadership position - Service Team members, Ministry Chairwomen and Regional Service Team (RST) members.



These leaders are the role models for others, and they must hold themselves and each other to a higher standard of morality than the average attendee at our functions.

They are automatically in the public forum, recognized, and looked up to as representatives of the Catholic Church. “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Men do not light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket. They set it on a stand where it gives light to all in the house.

In the same way, your light must shine before men so that they may see goodness in your acts and give praise to your heavenly Father.” (Matthew 5:14-16)

Leaders in Magnificat are called to be lighted lamps that illuminate the path for many others.



It is very important that women in leadership in the Church build relationships with one another.

It is God who brings leaders together with their individual personalities, weaknesses, and faults to serve His purposes through the power of the Holy Spirit working in their lives to make them one.

He brings them together from different backgrounds and interest, and through their encounters with one another, they can experience much joy and consolation amid difficulties and trials that bring forth purification and spiritual health.



These women make up the Chapter Service Team

Coordinator: who acts as a spokeswoman for the Team, sees to the preparation of the agenda, and conducts Team meetings.

Assistant coordinator: who acts in the absence of the Coordinator and takes charge of the Ministry Chairwomen or delegates this charge to other officers.

Secretary: who records the minutes and policies of the Team and handles any social correspondence.

Treasurer: who oversees the administration of the financial affairs of the Ministry and makes all required reports (See Constitution Art. V. D.4. and Appendix - Financial Officer's Responsibilities). The Intranet (internal website) has information that will assist the treasurer in various aspects of her job.

Historian: who keeps all important documents pertaining to the Chapter and chronicles the Chapter's history.

As a Team, they complete the annual report – the Wellness Checklist.





Great care should be taken on our part to preserve this love and unity among Service Team members. Its effects - good or bad - will spill over into the whole Ministry.

Magnificat is a **Team** ministry, with no one person dominating.

Any problems that arise should be handled immediately with love.

They should be brought out into the open and not allowed to fester and cause disunity (See Constitution Art. VI.I.1-4. and Appendix - Personality Issues: Relating as Sisters in the Lord).

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Before Making Decisions, it is important that we look at **WHO** will be making the decisions.

Evaluate your Service Team by reflecting on the following questions:



❖ Do we, as a Team, praise God together and seek His guidance in prayer?

❖ Do we invite Mary to pray with the Team and intercede for the Team?

❖ Have we placed the Team under her tutelage?

❖ Do we renew our consecration as a Team?

Reminder: The Handbook asks us to consecrate our lives and ministry to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

❖ Are we open to the work of the Holy Spirit?





- ❖ Do we use the various gifts, talents, and personalities of each member?
- ❖ Are we united in mind, heart and attitudes?
- ❖ Do we confirm and build on the ideas and judgments of others as each is heard?

NOTE: The personalities we find difficult may be the ones who bring gifts that are needed. Listen and see beyond the individual to the presence of the Lord

- ❖ Have we studied the Handbook to help us see the “big picture” - *Making Decisions As A Service Team* (A – 76) and keep the various procedures straight in our minds BEFORE making decisions?

- ❖ Have we taken steps to see where we are and where we are going?
- ❖ Do we try to preserve love and unity among Team members?

REMINDER: This is the channel through which the power of the Holy Spirit touches the Team and others.

- ❖ Do we give Jesus the central place in our lives?
- ❖ Are the Team members willing to be servants and pray for one another?
- ❖ What are the strengths and weaknesses of each member of the Team?
- ❖ Does each Team member understand their duties and responsibilities?
- ❖ Do we use scripture passages and word gifts to resolve conflicts?
- ❖ Do we consult our Spiritual Advisor when faced with a seemingly unresolved problem and weigh his/her advice well?



❖ Do we make decisions collectively in the context of the meeting or, do we move on our own **BEFORE** consulting the team?

NOTE: Consensus is required on policy and pastoral matters.

❖ Are we flexible enough to allow the Spirit to move, but ordered enough to accomplish the business items on the agenda?

❖ As Coordinator, do you come prepared with **an agenda that allows input** from Team members?

❖ Are we patient with one another, affirm and encourage one another?



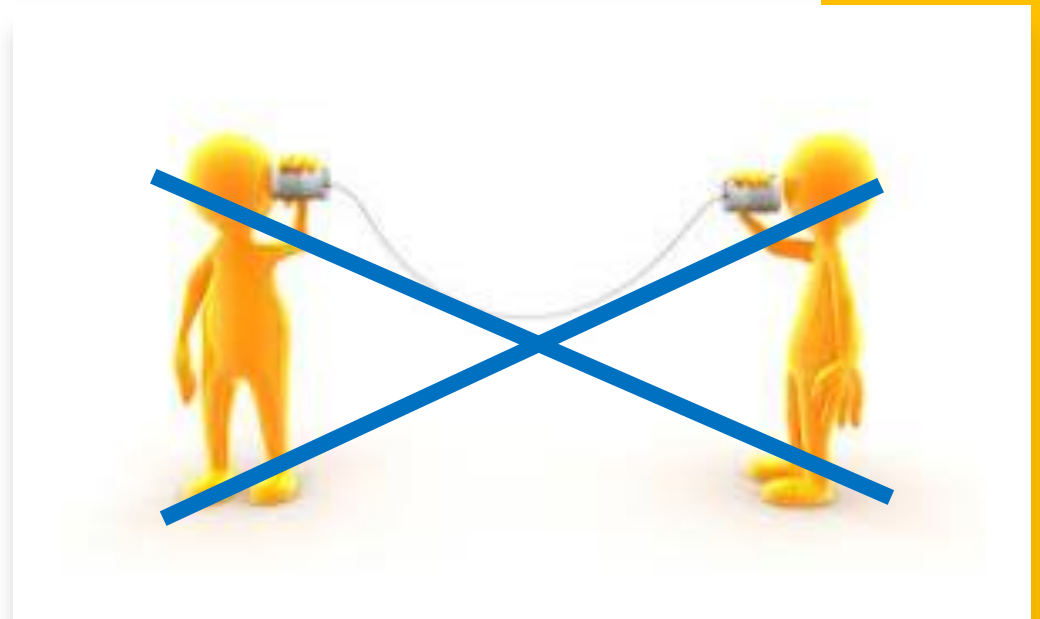
Complete unanimity on all issues, while not always possible, is the goal of all decision making by the local Service Team. c-30

Decisions should be made in the context of a Service Team meeting so that the Team can invite the Holy Spirit to guide the decision-making process.

Therefore, sufficient time and effort needs to be put into the venue which the Holy Spirit will use to mold the Team in unity and love.

“Polling the Team” by telephone or email is a totally insufficient way for a Magnificat Service Team to handle major decisions and important Meal arrangements.

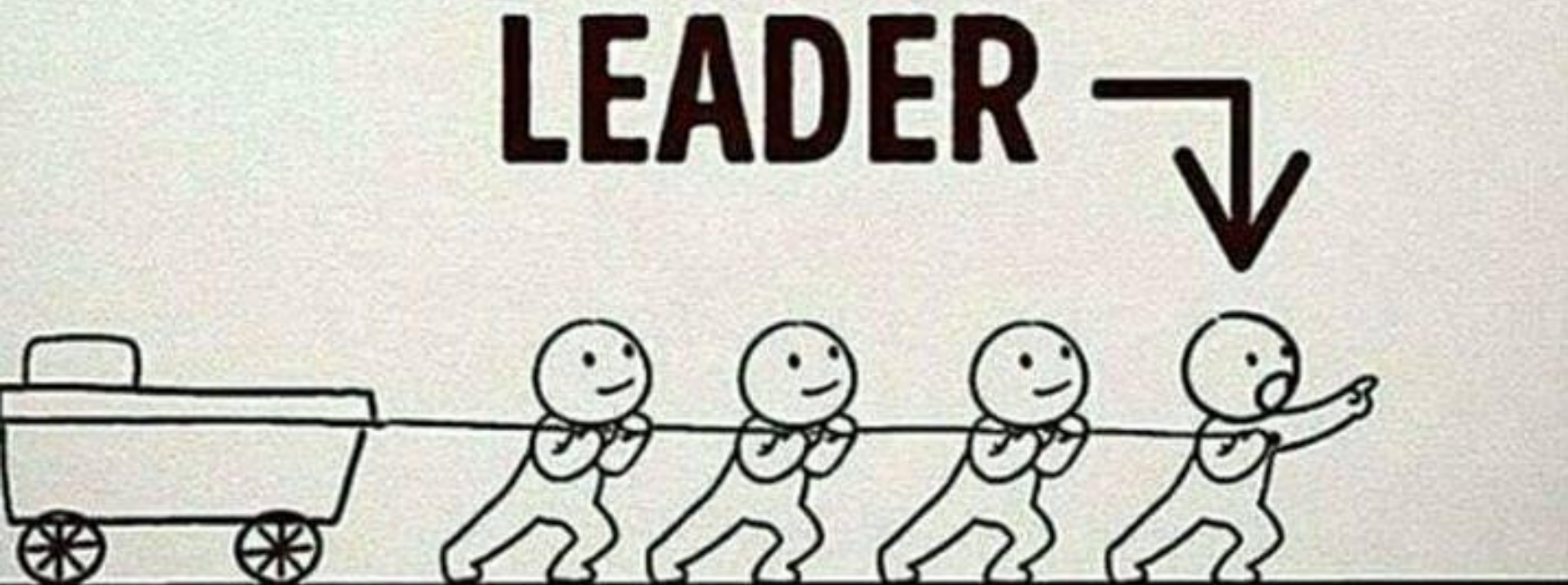
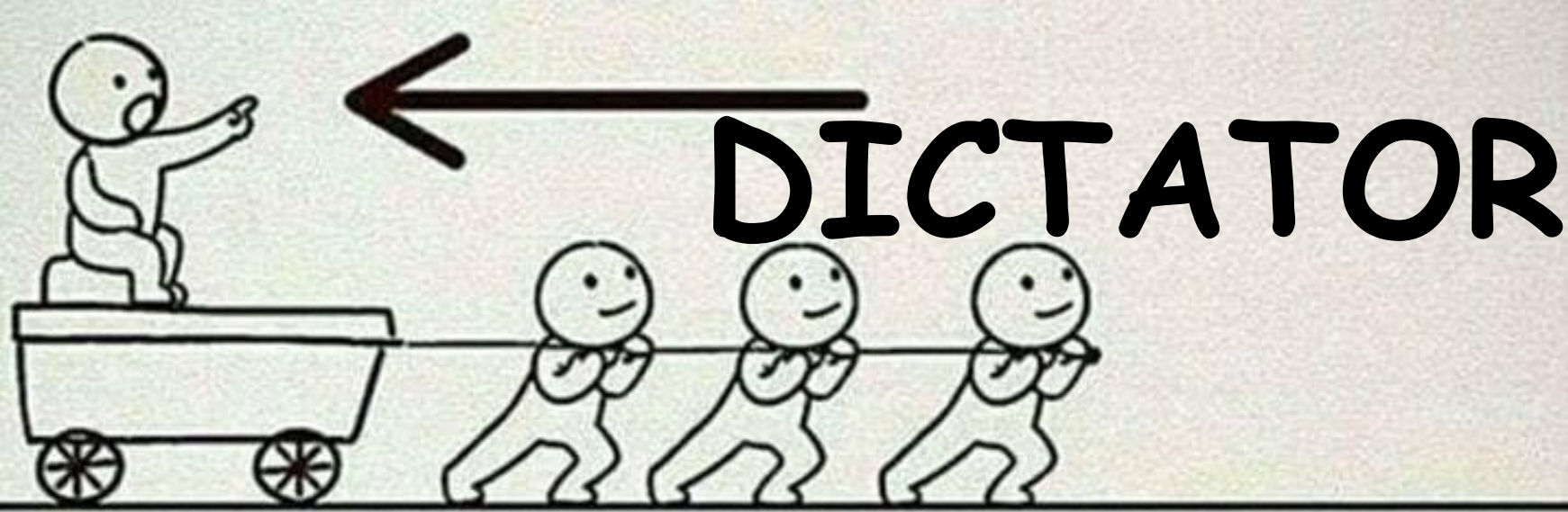
Sometimes it may be necessary to meet weekly.



Sample Agenda



- Opening prayer and praise and worship time/prayer time
- Reading and approval of minutes from last meeting
- Financial Report
 - Itemized as directed by CST Finance Ministry
- New Business
 - Upcoming Meal discussion and planning
 - Speaker, date, location selection
 - Contacting Ministry chairs
 - Mail outs/emails
 - Decorations
 - Flyers/publicity
 - Hostesses/greeters
- Other business
 - CST announcements
 - International Leaders' Conference
 - Magnificat Bible Study
 - Consecration to Mary
- Closing Prayer



Be honest,
how does
your Service
Team
function?

Do as I say/ Dictator

- The **dictatorial leadership style** focuses on the **leader** and no one else. It is a **style of leadership** where there is always personal control over the decision-making process for the Team. A **leader** using this **style** may choose to receive feedback from their Team, but any decision is theirs to make alone.
- The phrase most illustrative of an autocratic **leadership style** is "**Do as I say.**" Generally, an autocratic **leader** believes that he or she is the smartest person at the table and knows more than others. The dictator **makes** all the decisions with little input from Team members. They may not follow the guidelines already in place.



Follow Me/ Leader

- The phrase most indicative of this **style of leadership** (also known as "visionary") is "**Follow me.**"
Follow Me **leaders** take the time to explain their thinking: They don't just issue orders. Most of all, they allow people choice and latitude on how to achieve common goals. Decisions are a Team decision – not a one-person decision.



We are not
A TEAM
because we
work together.

WE ARE
a team because
*We respect,
trust, and care
for each other.*

Vanessa Abbott



For an overview of Leadership styles, please view the video - *Facilitative Leadership* presented by Karen Dwyer at the International Leaders' Conference 2017

<https://magnificat-ministry.net/newintranet/conferences/leaders-conference-2017/>



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