

How to be creative as a leader **By Vicente José Estalrich Ferrer**

I present to you a small teaching about how to be a creative leader in the style of St. Joseph starting from Article 5 of the Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde* of the Holy Father Francis. To do this, first of all ask for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and entrust this teaching to the protection of St. Joseph:

Prayer to St. Joseph, model of virtue (Blessed Santiago Alberione).

St. Joseph, model of all virtue, intercedes for us so that we may achieve your very inner life. In loving and active silence, in the fulfillment of all religious and social commitments, in absolute docility to the will of God, to achieved sublime holiness and glory. Intercede for us so that we may grow in faith, hope, and love, cement ourselves in the cardinal virtues, and abound in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Come Holy Spirit, come Holy Spirit, see Holy Spirit.

Currently, a creative leader is understood as the person capable of guiding others towards a goal in an innovative way, promoting creativity, enabling the goal to materialize and favoring decisive ideas. That is, to face the adaptation to the changes of a highly "changing" environment.

Just thinking about the life of St. Joseph can we observe how he was a creative leader, or as *Patris Corde*, the father of **creative courage**, says. He was able to guide and accompany his family, to reinvent himself in situations that he would never have expected (a son of the Holy Spirit, flight to Egypt ...), thanks to his collaboration and commitment materialized what God wanted for Jesus and for us, he had to adapt to a highly changing environment, even that seemed a little uncontrolled and unexpected, but he always seeks a solution for his family, in the end always appears in the Gospel the phrase ***"He rose up took the Child and his Mother and did what God had commanded him"*** (Cf. Mt 1, 24; 2,14.21) and in how he did it we find that courage or creative leadership, to set out in any situation, however difficult it may be with help and trust in God.

Among others, what creative leadership did José occupy?

- Spiritual leader of the Holy Family, by praying with the psalms, going to the synagogue and the temple...
- Leader in prayer, personal and family, leading or conducting your family's prayers.

- Leader in taking care of your family's needs: always with your eyes open to your family's needs, willing to sacrifice yourself. St. Joseph did not think of himself, but of Jesus and Mary.
- Leader in dedication and sacrifice for the family. Saint Joseph was willing to suffer for those he loved and not just once, but many times: Mary's pregnancy, the journey to Bethlehem, rejections, circumcision, Simeon's prophecy, Herod, the lost Child. In all this, St. Joseph bravely suffered in silence and offered this sacrifice to God.
- Leader in listening to your loved ones. Man of listening and few words. Of silence and respect.
- Leader in Holiness, morally upright and complete man, of great holiness and integrity.

The creativity of St. Joseph, is to hope and project himself in his son, is to let himself be carried away by the plans that God and his providence. It is to be brave in the times that he had to live.

Saint Joseph is the patron saint of ordinary people who work every day for a better world, without attracting attention, working, giving hope, praying and giving their lives and giving themselves up for others.

So what creative leadership should I have as a leader? Joseph's leadership. Here are some proposals following your example:

- Spiritual and prayer leader in the Cell. Offer a lot, with a mature prayer of quality, help to pray, propose prayer meetings, prayer in front of the most holy, pray the rosary together, ask for prayer constantly, make the members of the Cell ask for prayer. Send every day some motivating image, the gospel... without being heavy. With regard to the Cell prepare the meeting with prayer, put each person before the Most Holy, ask the Lord for what they need and not for what I think they need. Speak every day to God of the members of the Cell.
- Leader in taking care of the needs of the Cell. Siempre with eyes open to the needs of their own and of each one, willing to donate time to each member of Cell. Staying with everyone outside the Cell can be a good initiative, having a coffee, sharing time in another environment. Be attentive and make yourself visible, it is very useful to create a WhatsApp group.
- Leader in surrender and sacrifice for the Cell. As a leader we must be willing to suffer for those we love and are in charge of, many times we can seek some solution with the person, other times we can turn to someone else to help, but many times like St. Joseph, we must suffer courageously in silence

and offer this sacrifice to God. The important thing is to let God act on us and on the members of Cell. If there is something I can do perfect, to it, but always all accompanied by prayer and when I can not offer the problem and prayer to the Lord.

- Leader in listening to the members of the Cell. This I think is paramount, the leader should be a great person of active listening and few words, only when necessary. Person of silence, respect and action.
- Leader in Holiness, the leader must always try to be in God's grace, to be able from there to help others, he has to fill a lot because he has to give a lot. Therefore, it is necessary to resort to the sacraments, confession, prayer, most holy ..., assiduously.

Our creativity must be driven by the strength of the Holy Spirit, hope and give us hope, project Jesus into our lives and let ourselves be carried away by God's plans. Be brave in the times that we have had to live, always turn negative messages into positive ones, always add a pigtail, already but also..., and essential to draw on our face a smile.

As St. Joseph we must be light in the world of ordinary people, working day by day for our cellulins, without attracting attention, pawning, giving hope, praying, giving our life and time, giving us to the members of the Cell. It would be very opportune for the leader to also feed on a spiritual direction, which allows him to fill himself in order to give.

We must be facilitators, creating an environment in the Célula in which we can know, endure, collaborator, want, dream together to have a better present and future, trying to be always better, seeking holiness.

Before finishing I would like to comment on the need to change our intimate relationship with Jesus, abandon the vision of Jesus as a myth or philosophy, Jesus is a living person, which I have by my side, therefore, if Jesus is alive and close to me, I must be honest with Him, in that intimate relationship I must speak as I do with a good friend (of those who are counted on the fingers of the one hand), I must speak honestly to him every day, reserve time to talk as a friend, show him signs of affection, give thanks and reserve special moments, as we would do with a good friend. If we do not act honestly with Jesus, he will not enter into dialogue with us. He cannot enter our lives if we do not want to be honest with Him. Therefore, as leaders we must work honesty in our relationship with God, have Jesus as an intimate friend, to whom we honestly tell our things, and those of the Cell, what we can and can not do, in what we need Him to enlighten us and in this way He can also

give us answers, they will not always be the ones we like, but then we will need to ask for strength to be able to carry them forward.

Creativity will come when we put everything in the hands of Jesus, as our best friend. Are we honest with Jesus? Do I have samples of caressing with what I consider the center of my life?

Transforming the prayer to St. Joseph:

Leader's Prayer to Ask for Virtue from St. Joseph

St. Joseph, model of all virtue, intercedes for me as a leader so that I may approach your same inner life, that I may be able to grow in my personal relationship with Jesus, from person to person with honesty. May he be able to keep loving silence when required, and be active in fulfilling all religious, social and my Cell commitments, may he be docile to the will of God with the strength of the Holy Spirit, may he always pursue the holiness and glory of Jesus. Intercede for me so that I may grow and grow the members of the Cell in faith, hope, and love, grounded in the virtues gifts of the Holy Spirit with a big smile. Amen.

It is up to us to be courageous and creative, it is up to us to accompany many in solidarity. We have to dream as San Jose did, so that we can plan, invent and find courage in the present time. We must accompany so many who need us for that, "Today is the time for dreamers to get going!"

"He rose up to take the Child and his mother and did what God had commanded him" (cf. Mt 1:24; 2,14.21)

We want to be creative leaders! Let us get to work, let us get up, the Lord is on our side.