

Nurturing the 12 Qualities
of a Servant Leader

Foresight

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What is foresight?

- ◆ Fore : in front, advance, prior to
- ◆ See into the future: to see the unforeseeable
- ◆ The ‘lead’ of a leader: the reason why a person should lead; the lack of it is regarded as “an ethical failure”
- ◆ The leader being a historian, analyst and a prophet
- ◆ See problems that are at the budding stage and that will grow if nothing is done now with reference to mediocrity, injustice and abuse of power
- ◆ Creative possibilities that can sustain growth and development

Why is it important in leadership?

- ◆ Ensures institutional survival and development
- ◆ Helps the leader act when there is still time and room to maneuver and make preparations
- ◆ Helps the leader be aware of the quality of institutional service at present and alert to future change
- ◆ Maintains the followers' trust in the leader: he/she is not lost in busyness or triviality

How to develop foresight?

- ◆ Daily time for solitude, reflection, planning ahead and quiet prayer
- ◆ Nurture awareness: of the past, present and future time rolling forward
- ◆ Be a historian, analyst and prophet
- ◆ Learn to live a schizoid life: two levels of consciousness - fully-engaged and yet detached
- ◆ Confront problems, especially the institutional maladies
- ◆ Learning about the history and traditions of the institutional, the present state of operations, and future possibilities
- ◆ Collect data, analyse them and sleep on them to get intuitive thoughts about the future