

THE CHURCH EXISTS FOR ONE PURPOSE ONLY

Are we in the business of staying in business or are we leading people to Christ? The Church exists to bring people to salvation in Jesus Christ. If we carry out this leadership ministry correctly, engaging people in the life of the church, stewardship will thrive naturally as a result.

SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ON CHURCH LEADERSHIP

“The most basic task of the Church leader is to discern the spiritual gifts of all those under his authority, and to encourage those gifts to be used to the full for the benefit of all.” St. John Chrysostom is telling us that, as leaders, we need to know our people – their skills, talents, interests and abilities – and engage them in the life of the church. He concludes that only a person who can do this is fit to lead the Church.

SUGGESTED READING:

***Canoeing the Mountains* by Tod Bolsinger** is a book on church leadership that uses the explorers Lewis and Clark as a metaphor for church leadership. Lewis and Clark were looking for a waterway to the Pacific but found nothing but mountains. They found that what lay ahead of them was nothing like what they left behind them. They had to leave behind their canoes and paddles and find new navigational tools. The same is true in church leadership. What lies ahead is very different from what we leave behind us.

***Reclaiming the Great Commission* by Fr Evan Armatas**

In his book on Orthodox Christian parish leadership, Fr Evan Armatas guides parish leaders in re-thinking their role for developing a healthy parish. Fr. Evan reminds us to see our parish with fresh eyes, discerning and removing impediments, while providing opportunities for growth in the faith. Reclaiming the Great Commission is something God does with all of us – clergy and laity – together. Immensely readable, practical, and inspiring, this book from Fr. Evan guides leaders to create healthy parishes that are engaging, welcoming, serving, teaching, and growing.

CONCLUSION

Article 24, Section 1 of the Parish Regulations states, “To serve on a Parish Council is a ministry and all those who serve are called to represent Christ and the Orthodox Faith to all whom they meet in all aspects of life.” May your ministry be blessed, so that when you have completed your time of service on the parish council, others will be inspired to build upon your excellent work.

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