

■ Weekend Retreat for Business Leaders ■

By Fr. Charlie Chilufya, S.J.

■ Theme: Leading with Integrity – Discernment, Service, and Mission in Business

This 2-day retreat invites business leaders to step back from the rush of markets, competition, and profit margins to encounter God's Spirit in their leadership. It integrates Scripture, Ignatian practices, and leadership reflection for renewal and mission.

■ Day 1: Leadership as Service

- Opening Prayer Service: John 15:12–17 ('Love one another as I have loved you'). Candle-lighting ritual to symbolise God's presence.
- Talk 1: The Call to Servant Leadership – Reflection on John 13:1–15 (Jesus washes the disciples' feet).
- Silent Reflection: Journal prompt – Where have I led with pride or ego? Where have I led with humility and care?

Afternoon

- Case Sharing: Leaders share challenges where integrity was tested.
- Guided Meditation: The Two Standards (SpEx §§136–147) – Whose banner do I follow: self-interest or Christ's mission?
- Group Conversation: What does servant leadership look like in today's corporate culture?

Evening

- Examen for Leaders (prayed together).
- Optional Sacrament of Reconciliation.

■ *Journal Space: Write 1–2 pages on your key insights from Day 1.*

■ Day 2: Discernment in Decision-Making

Morning

- Morning Prayer: Psalm 23 – The Lord is my Shepherd.
- Talk 2: Discernment at the Core of Leadership – introducing consolation, desolation, and freedom.
- Workshop: Apply discernment to real-life scenarios (e.g., layoffs, environmental ethics).

Afternoon

- Meditation: The Call of the King (SpEx §§91–98). Reflection: What greater mission is God calling me to in my business?
- Small Groups: Discuss callings to mission in business.
- Silent Reflection: Journal prompt – Where is God asking me to risk courageously for justice in leadership?

Evening

- Taizé-style Prayer with Suscipe.
- Faith-Sharing Circle: Confidential leadership sharing.

■ *Journal Space: Reflect on a major decision you face. Which path brings consolation? Which brings desolation?*

■ Day 3: Mission & Sending Forth

Morning

- Morning Contemplation: Matthew 28:16–20 – Go and make disciples.
- Talk 3: Business as Mission – Seeing business as part of God's plan for society and creation.

Afternoon

- Personal Covenant Writing: Each leader writes a 'Leadership Covenant' of values and commitments.
- Closing Eucharist: Leaders present their covenants during offertory.
- Final Sending: Blessing with a compass (symbol of discernment and guidance).

■ *Journal Space: Write a prayer of commitment for your business leadership.*

■ Practical Notes

- Allow generous time for silence and journaling.
- Provide each participant with an Examen card.
- Create safe and confidential spaces for group sharing.
- Use symbols: candle (light), compass (discernment), basin (service).

■ Closing Prayer

'Lord, bless our leadership and work. May our businesses be guided by Your Spirit, serve Your people with love, and always strive for the greater good.'

Appendix: Leadership Examen

1. Gratitude – Where did I see God at work in my business today?
2. People – How did I honour the dignity of my employees, customers, and partners?
3. Decisions – Which choices brought consolation? Which caused desolation?
4. Integrity – Did I compromise values for profit? Where do I seek forgiveness?
5. Hope – What grace do I ask for tomorrow: wisdom, courage, and love?