**Summary of School of Leaders from**

**July 18, 2020**

Our July School of Leaders met on Zoom to discuss Chapter 5, Gratification and Self-Gratification, in Frank S. Salmani's book, "Whom Shall I Send?

Father Nick Bennet discussed the Scripture references at the beginning of the chapter, in particular, John 15:18-27.  Then Mary Kay Preston discussed the text.

Chapter 1 encouraged us to aim high and not water down Jesus' message when He called us to be holy as He is holy.  Chapter 2 told us how to do that – through prayer, which is communion with God.  Chapter 3 challenged us to find, in Jesus, the model of humility and service we need to become a true servant leader.  Chapter 4 warned us about the temptations of leadership, which he refers to as "demons of ambition."  Now Chapter 5 discussed the differences between gratification and self-gratification.

A good point Fr. Nick made was about the importance for a leader to befriend someone before trying to get him to do what we want him to do.

The three temptations discussed in the last chapter fed the human lust for control, power, and recognition, offering self-gratification without being very gratifying.  The difference between gratification and self-gratification is the difference between love and control.

As Mary Kay pointed out, when we evangelize others, we must accept and love them as they are, without trying to change or control them; in other words, we love them for what they are.

This is true gratification.  Self-gratification happens when we love someone or something because he/she/it can make us feel a certain way.

Salmani asks us to consider, "When we work for the Lord, whether as a Cursillo leader or any Christian leader, … 'Am I doing this because it is gratifying (serving God) or self-gratifying (it makes me feel good)? '"  The difference between gratification and self-gratification is that gratification sets us free, while self-gratification makes us prisoners of people, things, and ideas and keeps us from growing.  Self-gratification is about control, while gratification is about authentic love.

Let us continue to pray about where is God calling each of us to serve him every day.  If we look for self-gratification alone, we will never enjoy doing God's work, and any hope for perseverance is doomed.

If you would like to join us in studying this book, please contact a Secretariat member for information as to how you can receive a copy of the book.  Then share it with your group reunions.  You will all be richly blessed.

Please join us at the July Zoom School of Leaders on Saturday, August 22nd, and bring a friend!