

The ministry of governance

Corporate challenges in the context
of Church ministry

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A. LaFemina, American, C20



Pope Francis I, C21

“Mission” - L. *mitto, mittere, misi, missum*

- To send or dispatch (eg a legate or ambassador)
- To let go or release (eg a slave)

“Ministry” - L. *ministro, ministrare*

- To serve, to wait upon (as at table)
- To attend to, to take care of (a person’s needs)
- To govern, to direct – a service of guiding

Jesus

- **'sent by the Father'** (Jn 17:18; 16:28)
- **'to do the will of him who sent me'** (Jn 6:38; 4:34)
- which is to **'give life to the full'** (Jn 10:10)
- by **teaching**, by **healing**, by his **presence**, . . . (Lk 9-10)
- gives **his mission** to the **Church** (Jn 13:2-15; 20:21; . . .)

The Church continues the mission of Christ by teaching, by healing, by its presence to those in need

The mission always belongs to Christ

“The Church does not have a mission . . .

. . . the mission has a

Stephen Bevens SVD, 2009

We are the Body of Christ most effectively when we the Church continue his mission

On the **mission** of governance

- Governance of Catholic ministries is a **mission** - a 'being sent'
- It is entrusted to us **by others**
by Christ, by the founding congregations, by the Church, . . .
- We exercise governance **on behalf of others** in the Church

On the **mission** of governance

- The first acts of **ministry** / **service** are to accept
 - **responsibility** for others,
 - **liability** on behalf of others, and
 - **accountability** to others

On the **ministry** of governance

Risk

Strategy

Performance

Compliance

Accountability

Resourcing

Culture

On the **ministry** of governance

	Civil Law	Canon Law	Corporate	Internal	Ecclesial
Risk					
Strategy					
Performance					
Compliance					
Accountability					
Resourcing					
Culture					

On the **ministry** of governance

Ecclesial Context

Risk	What is at stake for the local Catholic community, bishop
Strategy	Opportunities for collaborative ministry
Performance	Does the governance structure serve the ministry ?
Compliance	Running the business is part of the mission
Accountability	Include the Catholic community, bishop in discernment
Resourcing	Choose and form the right people
Culture	Set the highest standards possible

“To govern with the heart and mind of Christ”

Nurture a service ethos

Care about the person

Reflective practice and prayer

Govern for today and for tomorrow

The mission belongs to Christ

“To govern with the heart and mind of Christ”

