

The Call To Leadership

LEADER God of goodness and love, guide our belief that just as water always finds a way to flow, Catholic ministry will always find a way to further your son's mission and serve the communities you have formed, regardless of the challenges we face. Teach us to be true to our calling as leaders in your work on earth, to encourage, inspire and challenge our ministry into the future. Let us reflect on the ways that the work we do gives faithful witness to who we say we are as ministers of the church.

SIDE 1 We, as leaders of Catholic ministry, are gifts to the church, because our ministries witness to the church's fidelity, to its call to build the kingdom of God.

SIDE 2 We live in faith, hope and prayer. We believe our role is not a job, but instead, a call that arises from an experience of God, a vocation, and it is a ministry that believes that those experiences and that presence are with us on an ongoing basis.

SIDE 1 Leadership in Catholic ministry must be open to risks and transformation. Our ministries do not now look as they did at their founding, and they will not look like this in the future.

SIDE 2 In the stories of our founders, there is an unrelenting passion for the mission, not for the institutions or the organizations, but for the mission.

From: *Sponsorship: History, Challenges, and Core Elements*,
Catholic Health Association

SIDE 1 Accepting responsibility for the integrity of an organization is a heavy burden, but one that can be aided by other ministry leaders who sense their role in keeping Catholic identity alive and evident in each part of the ministry.

SIDE 2 Ensuring fidelity to the church is a ministry of possibility—not certainty or even probability—but possibility concerning the future: a future that begins in the calling of names. Jesus calls disciples; the disciples call others. Whom shall we call? Whom will I call?

SIDE 1 Ministry leadership in the future will ultimately be about relationships—relationships with the official church, the community and the people who are served by the ministries; also relationships with the religious communities that carry the heritage, with the founders and with the ancestors who have gone before us; and, ultimately, relationship with a God who calls.

ALL Gracious God, we thank you for bringing us to another day and to new opportunities for serving you, one another, Catholic ministry, and the cause of your kingdom. Open our hearts and our minds to the guidance of your Spirit so that we will recognize and seize upon the possibilities that lie before us this day to celebrate and work on leadership of our ministry. May the work we do together be of benefit to all those we serve and may it enliven and refresh our spirits and our commitment to the cause of your kingdom. Amen.