

Foley, Luke, 2012, *Servant Leadership as a Practical and Effective Medium for Education in Catholic Primary Schools in Cork City.*

ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION

The aim of this thesis was to investigate if servant leadership could be an effective medium leadership in Catholic primary schools in Cork City. Catholic schools were selected as the test of servant leadership were believed to reflect the common ground between Catholic educational philosophy and the principles of best practice currently used in the leadership of schools.

A representative selection of literature was reviewed on Servant Leadership, Irish Education, and Catholic Education, to contextualise the study.

Research was carried out by questionnaire in three schools. To reflect the ethos of servant leadership the sample included four stakeholders: pupils, parents, teachers and principals. The results were then triangulated by the use of structured interviews.

The research considered the following areas:

- Leadership
- Policies (formation, analyses and implementation)
- Professionalism & Delegation
- Communication
- Conflict & Discipline
- Self Education (self-motivation, self-discipline)

The findings of the research suggested possible areas where servant leadership would be a practical form of leadership in a Catholic primary school in Cork City. However, due to the limited scope of the study in terms of geographical area and sample group size, the findings were indicative as opposed to conclusive.