

**Book Review: *SERVANT LEADERSHIP*
*A Journey into the Nature of
Legitimate Power and Greatness***

By Robert K. Greenleaf, Paulist Press, Copyright
1977 & 1991. ISBN: 0-8091-2527-7
(available in paperback)

While this book has been around for some time, its relevance is ageless. The author, who died in 1990, developed his theory of servant leadership while an executive at AT&T. He subsequently lectured and consulted at MIT, Harvard, Ford, R.K Mellon and Lilly, among others, and held teaching positions at Dartmouth and the University of Virginia. In 1964 he founded the Center for Applied Ethics in Indianapolis, later renamed the Robert K. Greenleaf Center. His eclectic curiosity resulted in a vision to stimulate a process that would result in a more caring society.

This edition of *SERVANT LEADERSHIP* was written over many years, the theory of which was conceptualized in the late 60's & 70's and investigated over the ensuing 20 years; a treasury of garnered information through experience, research, articles and presentations. He provides the essence and practice of the servant leader at all levels of human life, suggesting three levels of prophetic influence: (1) family/community, (2) institutional, and (3) theological. Doubtless, we have a certain instinctive awareness of this leadership style, however the author has eloquently wrapped verbiage around the concept, carefully building from the basic philosophy to application in the three levels of influence. He brings insight into the significance of both servant *leaders* and *followers*, noting that everyone may, at times, assume both roles. Mr. Greenleaf's concept is an illustration of liturgy translated to daily praxis...*lived* liturgy.

Helen Nicole St. Paul

Other books by this author:

On Becoming a Servant-Leader (1996)

The Power of Servant Leadership: Essays (1998)

*Seeker & Servant: Reflections on Religious
Leadership* (1996)

Teacher as Servant: A Parable (limited availability
– out of print)

Servant as Leader (1982)

Servant, Leader & Follower (limited availability –
out of print)