Recently my friend, Fr. Doug Robertson, was describing the beauty of the parish picnic. He said it was "the power of the potluck" that transformed the ordinary into the sacred. This can be a metaphor for Servant Leadership. The "power of the potluck" is the personal sharing of what we all have, to feed each other. It is a banquet of goodness and generosity in which we are all fed and nourished. The power of the potluck recognizes that everyone has something to bring to the table and everyone has something to take away. By definition this is what it means to be in a good company. Company comes from the Latin words "cum panus," meaning to break bread with. Servant-led organizations are good companies to work for because they have discovered the power of the potluck where people gather to work together, play together, and celebrate together for a Good greater than themselves. On this Labor Day, a time to remember and celebrate good work, why not unleash the power of the potluck.

Peace and all good,

Tom

Tom Thibodeau
Director, MA in Servant Leadership program, Distinguished Professor of Servant Leadership, Associate Professor, Religious Studies and Philosophy, tathibodeau@viterbo.edu

MASL Anniversary Celebration
10 Years Later (and Still the Only Master’s

Calling on all MASL Alumni and current students!
You are our guests at the celebratory weekend! Our official MASL celebration will be in conjunction with the Viterbo Alumni weekend. Kick off the celebration with refreshments and hors d’oeuvres in the Reinhart Center Board Room on Friday, October 14, 6 PM. Tell us "Where Has Your Servant Leadership Journey Taken You?" (Sponsored by the MASL Alumni group). On Saturday, October 15, please join alumni and current students for a continental breakfast and a conversation with Tom and Rick on "Continuing the Journey: Servant Leadership and the Common Good." Breakfast at 8:30 with conversation from 9:00 - 11:00. Following the conversation, you are invited to break bread together during a luncheon with MASL students, faculty, and fellow alumni.

Taking a break from MASL for a semester or two?
You will need to register on VitNet for Not enrolled/LOA to maintain your student status by Friday, September 2!
This will show up on your degree audit as: NENR-000
FALL SEMESTER 2011

SVLD 601 Servant Leadership Theory and Practice, (La Crosse), Tom Thibodeau, October 21 - 22, November 18 - 19, December 9 - 10, 3 cr.
SVLD 602 Theological and Philosophical Foundations of Servant Leadership, (St. Paul, MN and on-line), Matthew Bersagel Braley, October 7 - 8, November 18- 19, 3 cr.
SVLD 604 Ethical Decision Making for the Common Good, Rick Kyte, (La Crosse), September 9 - 10, September 23 - 24, October 14 - 15, 3 cr.
SVLD 605 Colloquium, Matthew Bersagel Braley, (La Crosse), December 10, 2 cr.
SVLD 610 Methods of Leadership Research, Matthew Bersagel Braley, (La Crosse), October 28 - 29, November 11 - 12, December 2 - 3, 3 cr.
SVLD 786 Special Topics: Readings in Servant Leadership I, Matthew Bersagel Braley (online), beginning August 29 - November 29, 3 cr.

Course descriptions are available [www.viterbo.edu/msl.aspx?id=54281](http://www.viterbo.edu/msl.aspx?id=54281)

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

South Sudan became the world’s newest nation last month on July 9, 2011, officially breaking away from Sudan after two civil wars over five decades that cost about 4 millions of lives. In the new country’s capital, Juba, and many parts of the world, South Sudanese joined in jubilant celebration. At St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Rochester, and on the Rochester campus of the University of Minnesota, many South Sudanese were joined by a number of friends who celebrated the birth of this new nation.

I was born during wartime in South Sudan. I have now witnessed the birth of a new nation. My hope is that the next generation will live a better life than what I have experienced. When I draped on the Flag of South Sudan on July 9th at the St. John’s Block party I called it a “Big Saturday, a big day.” South Sudan today, is the 193rd country recognized by the United Nations and the 54th U.N. member state in Africa.

What does this mean for the people of South Sudan and for me? My entire life before coming to the United States was spent working to support the liberation of South Sudan. I knew that my people were not being treated fairly, and I risked my life to work for our liberation. An independent South Sudan means that my people are now free. What is next for the people of South Sudan? The transition for this new nation will have challenges and the people of South Sudan will continue to need your support more than ever. As I worked hard in Sudan to bring about change, I will continue to work hard for my country from my new home in Rochester, Minnesota and at Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Independence will mean nothing if it is not followed up with actions that lead to change. The young government faces the huge challenges of delivering such basic needs as education, health services, water and electricity, food and many other needs to its more than 8 million citizens.

As part of that nation and having lived here in the USA for these last few years, am I challenged? As I continue in my studies of Servant leadership, the ongoing question of my mine is how can I make a difference in that new nation that has just emerged? How will I impart the knowledge that I learned at Viterbo to my people who have known nothing in the last five decades but war, diseases, hunger and many other horrors that they have experienced?

In appreciation, I would like to thank Viterbo University for giving me the opportunity to share on my new Country the Republic of South Sudan. John L. Lasuba
COORDINATOR’S CORNER

REVEALING PEACE

A peace that passes all understanding. That has been my prayer of late. The desire for a peace that passes understanding seems the only appropriate response to the persistence in our world of conflicts that pass understanding. MASL students know all too well what these conflicts look, sound, and feel like. Rosine Urujeni ('11) returns to Rwanda to carry the work of truth-telling and reconciliation forward for the next generation. Father John Lasuba celebrates the independence of his home country, South Sudan, even as he anticipates the challenges of raising up leaders from the literal rubble of decades old animosities and atrocities. Closer to home, many of our students navigate the increasingly perilous politicization of their workplaces, their uncertainty about the future a stark contrast to the righteous certainty of many of our leaders. Praying for a peace that passes all understanding is a practice that makes me more sensitive to the peace that already exists in our midst. We know what peace looks, sounds, and feels like – even when we don’t always know how to make peace or resolve conflict. It looks like Hutu and Tutsi women in Rwandan collaborating on a micro-enterprise coffee bean project in order to support their remaining family members. It sounds like hammers pounding new roof beams on the bombed-out shell of a church in South Sudan. It feels like that moment when the bread is broken at a divided family table and all those present recognize in the faces of one another our deepest human need to be loved unconditionally, our greatest desire to be heard amid the cacophony of campaign slogans. Before we can become peacebuilders, we must re-sensitize ourselves to the ways peace is revealed in, around, and often in spite of us. May we discover in the coming days a world abundant with acts of peace and the courage to become peace revealers - especially when that peace passes our understanding.

In peace, Matthew
Matthew Bersagel Braley, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and Philosophy
Coordinator, Master’s Program in Servant Leadership mtbersagelbraley@viterbo.edu

C O L L O Q U I U M A N D G R A D U A T E S

DECEMBER 2011

December candidates for the Master of Arts in Servant Leadership degree are Kristin Johnson, Toni Krakowski, Deb Wegner-Hohensee. They will present their research at Colloquium this December 10th. Papers to be presented include the topics: “Women as Servant Leaders in the Catholic Church” (Johnson), “Compassion in the Nursing Field” (Krakowski) and “Appreciative Inquiry and Servant Leadership” (Wegner-Hohensee). All are welcome to attend the presentations. View our growing archive of Colloquium Research Abstracts listed on Blackboard.

Commencement is December 17, 10:30 AM, Viterbo University Fine Arts Center Main Theater.

MASL SPRING 2012 COURSES

SVLD 605 Colloquium, Matthew Bersagel Braley, (La Crosse), January 27 - 28, May 4 - 5, 2 cr.
SVLD 651 Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution, Matthew Bersagel Braley and Sr. Georgia Christensen, (La Crosse), March 16 - 17, March 30 - 31, April 20 - 21, 3 cr.
SVLD 653 Ritual and Celebration, Tom Thibodeau, (La Crosse), January 20 - 21, February 3 - 4, February 17 - 18, 3 cr.
SVLD 786 Special Topics: Readings in Servant Leadership II, Matthew Bersagel Braley, online, January 16 - May 11, 1 cr.

Blog at www.viterboservantleadership.wordpress.com
**Servant Leaders in Action**

Jeff Dols, MASL 2008, returned to La Crosse on July 26 as the Director of the Franciscan Spirituality Center. "I am a FSPA Affiliate serving an organization I love"

Ann Larkin, MASL 2011 and Julie Wiedmeyer MASL 2010 are organizing a Circles of Trust MASL Alumni Retreat. (Please read Mark Your Calendars below)

Robert Toomey, MASL 2011, was recently accepted into Edgewood College’s doctoral program (Ed.D.) in educational leadership. On July 5, Robert started a new job with the State of Wisconsin, Dept. of Employee Trust Funds, to help them start up a staff training/development function for their employees and managers, with strong support from the department's leadership. "I couldn't pass up the opportunity and I know my MASL degree helped me get to this point on my journey and will help me in the new position. Changes & transitions, Oh My!"

Chandra Sherin, MASL 2006, completed two units of Clinical Pastoral Education at Mayo Clinic Health System, Franciscan Healthcare-La Crosse and became a Reiki Practitioner/Teacher. Chandra has begun a joint ministry via FSPA Affiliation at the Integrative Therapy space in La Crosse, WI, with Sr. Eileen McKenzie, FSPA, and fellow FSPA Affiliate Sharon Chavolla. The Integrative Therapy space offers Community Acupuncture with Sr. Eileen, Massage with Sharon, and Reiki with Chandra. The philosophy of the Integrative Therapy joint ministry space is to provide care that is professional and ethical. All services are offered on a sliding scale according to individual means. Chandra also continues servant leadership through serving as Chair of the FSPA Affiliation committee, serving in the Franciscan Living Challenge committee - focusing on ways to live counter-culturally and with awareness of our actions in relation to the earth and the environment; and being a voice for the voiceless through art, activism and writing.

Melinda Van Slyke, MASL 2006 has been involved in Guatemala solidarity work for the past fifteen years, with experiences ranging from being a human rights observer in a returned refugee village to being on the board of The Network in Solidarity With the People of Guatemala. www.nisgua.org “My experience has been that true community development has to involve women. That is why my products come from women’s cooperatives and small scale family run businesses. This is not charity. These are mutually beneficial partnerships based on respect, dignity, and transparency. Support fair trade--it truly does make a world of difference”

**Welcome to the World** Hannah Louise and Elizabeth Ann, twin daughters of Sheri Bohland Hammond and Frank Hammond, born April 5, 2011. Shari is a student in the Viterbo MASL program.

**Mark Your Calendars**

September 17-18, Circles of Trust MASL Alumni Retreat to be held at the Franciscan Spirituality Center, La Crosse, WI. The cost for the event is $90; lodging for those who choose to stay at the Spirituality Center is available for an additional $42. Register at: http://www.viterbo.edu/uploadedFiles/MASLAlumniRetreat.pdf. Limited seating, sign up now! Contact Julie Wiedmeyer: juliewiedmeyer@gmail.com or Ann Larkin: pame4@centurytel.net for further information.

November 14 –15, Tom Thibodeau and Richard Pieper will be holding Wisconsin Conversations on Servant Leadership, November 14, morning in Milwaukee and afternoon in Green Bay, November 15 morning in La Crosse at Viterbo University.

March 22, 2012, Jim Hunter will be speaking at Viterbo University, Fine Arts Center, thanks to the generosity of Dave and Mark Skogen and Festival Foods Corporation.