

REFLECTION

BLD NEWARK COVENANT COMMUNITY

THE BRIGHTER SIDE OF CONFLICT

From time to time, we find our community in one form or another of controversy and conflict. A lot of us wonder why this transpires in a communion of Christian believers whose main preoccupation is to love God above all and our neighbor as ourselves. Although it may appear negative, we should all grow in awareness that conflict has always been present in the life of the church and that properly handled, conflict can be positive, even generative!

Conflict that is confronted and addressed can only encourage invigorating relationships within our community structure. The expression of differences can promote a continuing process of change and betterment of how we conduct our affairs as God's flock duly anointed to bring His love to all men.

Conflict management in the Christian perspective of love and forgiveness aligns the integrity of our community with that of the Gospel, and as such takes people and their idiosyncrasies more seriously.

Conflict has always been present in all human relationships as men are all imperfect beings with their own set of hurts and shortcomings. It is a normal and integral aspect of relationships and of living together.

Since we apply the Gospel in our daily lives, we are able to live more fully in our relationships. When we accept conflict as a tool for community building and we work on our differences that at times may dominate our affairs, with the guidance of the Spirit, we are blessed and we become fruitful.

As the Body of Christ, bound by the same love for God and united in heart, mind and spirit in our vision, mission and charism, we should be able to renew and reconcile our relationships without suppressing our differences, without anyone becoming more dominant, without having any losers or winners but just have one body that seeks to please God above all.

Wherever two or three are gathered, there is the need for organization. Where the two or three become two or three hundred or even a thousand, conflicts are bound to arise and the need for a more precise and effective organization becomes a necessity. But in all these, let us remember that when two or three are gathered in prayer and in Christ's Name then He is amongst them.

The brighter side of conflict comes about only if resolution is done in prayerful discernment and complete surrender to the Father's will!

The brighter side of conflict – change, unity, spiritual growth, deepening of loving relationships - will be upon us if we bring glory to God by demonstrating His love.