

REFLECTION

BLD NEWARK COVENANT COMMUNITY

INNER CHANGE BY OUTWARD ACTION

An experience beyond words, I can still recall with vividness my transformation from skepticism to complete surrender to Him on my LSS weekend. From that time on, I continued to sustain the Spirit of Jesus in my heart and mind through prayers and opening myself to His love.

As I make a journal of my spirituality through reflections on my consciousness, I have assessed a certain degree of progress in my path of devotion to the Lord. I was an angry person before. If things did not go my way, yelling ensued and there went my untamed tongue. Now, I have a significant control over this unsavory behavior through reading and contemplating the words of our Lord.

After my spiritual awakening, I longed for His presence everyday. I began to realize that salvation is not only avoidance of sins and seeking forgiveness for sins committed but also doing God's works. I became aware of my sinfulness and felt remorse from my wrongdoings. I began to love other people and eliminate any prejudice against them. Slowly creeping into my conscience was the forgiveness of injuries inflicted on me. Tolerance and trust in my daughters recently developed in my heart through the God-sent guidance of a BLD couple.

But even as I've turned my life over to the Lord, I am not yet fully like Zacchaeus. (Lk19: 5-8) I still hold on to trivial aspects of life distracting me from what should be the center of my existence. When can I set aside my needs to care for the needs of others? When can I accept with humility the idea that I might be wrong and another point of view might be valid? My arrogance, pride and independence get on my way sometimes. I pray for a total conversion like Zacchaeus' so that as I continue to work in God's vineyard, I can do quality service to the Lord, making retributions for past offenses and giving back what is due Him, not for rewards or recognition. Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over. (Lk 19:8)

With the support and encouragement of BLD members whose deep spirituality shows in their service and authentic concern for others, someday I will be able to embrace the humility I need to open deeper ways of loving and respecting my brothers and sisters in and outside the community ...one mustard seed-sized gesture at a time.

Lord, help me to learn, recognize and discern the promptings of your Holy Spirit rising within me and to respond always. Upon this, I will have the peace, happiness and fruitfulness in serving you.