

REFLECTION

BLD NEWARK COVENANT COMMUNITY

I WILL LOVE YOU AS GOD ASKED ME TO DO!

It has been 12 years now since I started to learn more about God through our beloved BLD community. The teachings provided stirred my interest in knowing Jesus and loving Him and consequently, learning to embrace servitude, all for His greater glory. Although the BLD community is not a place of perfection, its imperfections have taught me to become closer to God. Indeed, the failures and limitations of human encounters have given the Christian comprehension a spiritual dimension of life intertwined with the human flaws.

Life is all about relationships - relationship with God and relationship with our neighbors. One of the struggles I have, even up to now, is how to succumb to God's will when I experience relational problems. Oftentimes I neglect to recognize the presence and the role of the sanctifying grace in all areas of my life.

Leviticus 19:17 says, ***"You shall not hate any of your kindred in your heart. Reprove your neighbor openly so that you do not incur sin because of that person."*** This command gives us the opportunity to cling to holiness. As I commit to become a disciple of Christ, I realized that there is a necessity to imbibe the two greatest commandments summarized by our Lord Jesus Christ (Matt. 22:37-39), ***"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."***

The first step of obedience to these laws is humility. St. Teresa of Avila once said that true humility is recognition of our limitation and knowing that God can do all things for us. She also said that true humility neither disquiets nor troubles nor disturbs the soul but is accompanied by peace, joy and tranquility. I must say that when I labor with true love for Jesus Christ, I genuinely experience this inner peace, striving to understand and forgive my neighbor's shortcomings, and also ultimately embracing the responsibility to correct them gently. This gives me that sense of freedom from any negative emotions, resting in His loving comfort with inner peace and joy.

Heavenly Father, please grant me the courage to walk side by side with Your Son Jesus Christ and to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as I aim to grow each day in Your Image and Likeness. In times of joy, I will rejoice with You; and in times of trouble, I will persevere with You. Amen