

Pastoral Charity: Living and Loving As Jesus

- 1) What Image/picture comes to mind when you see an act of Charity?
- 2) How does this image reflect a deeper meaning or reality for you?
- 3) The Tree of Life is a biblical image of God's connection to us and our relationship with God?
 - a. How do you see the roots of a tree the foundation of your growth as a pastoral minister of charity?
 - b. When I enter a pastoral situation how do I prepare myself?
 - c. Read the story of Zacchaeus? Luke 19:1-10 What is the root of Jesus' action? How did he treat those around him? What is the fruit of Jesus' response in this situation?
 - d. What do you think are some personal challenges you may bring as a minister of Christian Charity?
- 4) Care for the "Inner Life". Read the story of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-27. Roots and Fruits of this encounter?
- 5) Openness to God: Three Stages of Preparation
 - a. Admit that I am a sinner- Open to the action of grace
 - b. I am able/willing/seeking to change. I am empty enough each day to allow myself to be filled with the Lord.
 - c. I don't need to be perfect: I am an instrument God uses even in my imperfection or because of it.
- 6) Examen of Consciousness:
I John 4: 7-11
Hebrews 13:1-3
 - a. Pure in thought: "What's my first response/thought?"
 - b. Exemplary in conduct: Am I consistent and Christ-like?
 - c. Profitable in speech: "Say good things people need to hear".
 - d. A neighbor in compassion to everyone: How do I draw upon empathy, understanding?
 - e. Preserve humility in the heart: