

# **TO BE A CHRISTIAN IS TO BE LIKE CHRIST.**

## **Aim of These Jottings**

- ✓ *To realize that Externals of Christian practice are good, but not sufficient.*
- ✓ *Our attitudes, our minds our hearts should be Christian.*
- ✓ *To encourage the participants to make a fresh start in their following CHRIST,*

## **Uses Materials for:**

- ✓ *Talks. Sermons.*
- ✓ *Recollections*
- ✓ *Adult Baptism preparation*

## **Introduction:**

Quiet down.

Singing hymns or bhajans.

Opening prayer.

## **Orientation Talk.** (Suggested Ideas)

- To be a Christian is to be chosen and called by Christ.
- It is a personal invitation. Christ a loving Person, our Savior and Son of God is calling us personally to follow him.
- To be a Christian is more than a matter of belief, moral conduct and rituals.
- It is a personal decision to follow Jesus, to entrust ourselves to him, to live up to his values and ideals.
- Our response to the Call of Jesus has to be a free decision. Jesus stresses this in his words: **“If you wish to be my disciple.. Come and follow me”**
- Under the influence of God’s grace and the promptings of The Holy Spirit, the call of Jesus has ‘to be experienced, ’not only heard. .
- Christ’s call is not a matter of ‘belief’ or a ‘proposition’ to be accepted
- It is not enough to be told that Christ calls us. We have the experience it, so to say; we have to hear the knocking of Jesus at the door of our hearts.

## **3. A Fantasy Contemplation** **Experiencing the Call of Christ?**

- ✓ Put the participants through a ‘Christ encounter’ or a ‘Fantasy’ Exercise.
- ✓ For the encounter or fantasy you may use any of the texts mentioned below.
- ✓ Make this exercise as ‘prayerful’ and ‘experimental’ as possible
- ✓ Make it personal and suffused with deep affectionate prayer.
- ✓ Confront the participants with the ‘personal call’ Christ makes to each one of us.
- ✓ Throughout the exercise, stress the positive signs of the call of Jesus, namely,
  - Joy and happiness.
  - Love and spontaneity.
  - Freedom and Trust
  - Personal relationship with Christ.

### **Quotes for the Fantasy Contemplation.**

- |      |             |  |
|------|-------------|--|
| I.   | Lk. 5/1-11  | <u>First Call of the Disciples.</u><br>“Come and follow me!”     |
| II.  | Jn. 6/60-69 | <u>Test of Discipleship.</u><br>“ Do you want to leave me also?” |
| III. | Jn. 21/15-  | <u>Following of Christ Unto Death.</u><br>“Come and follow me”   |

### **4. Prayer Session:**

- ✓ As a follow-up of the Christ’s Encounter above, hold a shared group prayer, better in the chapel or prayer room.
- ✓ Sit in a circle, and if possible, expose the Blessed Sacrament on a small table in the center of the circle.

For the prayer session, you may use any of these texts given below or any those mentioned above:

- |      |                    |                        |
|------|--------------------|------------------------|
| I.   | Acts 9/3-9; 17-19. | The Call of Saul       |
| II.  | Mt. 19/16-22       | The Rich Young Man.    |
| III. | Lk. 9/57-62        | The Would-be-disciples |
| IV.  | Lk. 19/1-10        | Zacchaeus              |

Comment, paraphrase and pray on the following hymns:

- I’ll say yes, Yes, Yes “
- “ Come follow me!” – “ If you wish to be my disciple”.
- “ I have decided to follow Jesus “.
- “ All to Jesus I surrender”.
- “ The Saviour is waiting”.

## **Appendix    Activities.**

*Optional – time permitting*

*Do not skip activities easily, they are very effective*

### **Preparation of the Activities:**

- ✓ Re- enacting any of the Scripture passages quoted above, in a day to day situation.
- ✓ Divide the participants into small groups of 6 to 8 each.
- ✓ Each group may prepare an activity on the theme: Christ Calls Each and Every One to Follow Him”
- ✓ The activities could be for instance:
 

* A play-let.	* A radio-play	* Symbolic representation.
* A tableau	* A Story	* Posters.
* A Mime	* Action Song	* Slogan contest
* A Role-play	* A Photo Story	* Ads competition.
* Collage.		

### **Presentation of the Activities:**

The groups will present their activity to the house.

Each presentation will be followed by a short discussion and evaluation.