



EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE (IN LIGHT OF CASTE AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION)

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IS A UNIQUE AND PRECIOUS ELEMENT OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH. IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE THE GIFT OF JESUS' LOVE AND MERCY.

THE EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE USED BELOW IS NOT AN EXAM OR CHECKLIST FOR TESTING HOW INTOLERANT OR DISCRIMINATORY A PERSON IS. INSTEAD, IT IS OFFERED AS A REFLECTIVE EXERCISE, TO HELP US IN BEING ATTENTIVE TO GOD'S CREATION AND AS AN AID IN PUTTING OURSELVES IN RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR SISTERS, BROTHERS AND GOD.

THE KEY CONSIDERATION IN EVERY QUESTION IS, "HOW DO I LIVE AS ONE LOVED AND FORGIVEN BY GOD?"

1. Reflecting on the belief that all human beings are my sisters and brothers in Christ; do I make an effort to interact respectfully with people who are different from myself (outside of work and school) and to understand their perspectives?
2. Knowing that all are made in the image and likeness of God, do I value the talents and experiences of others by reading articles and books or by watching films written by those from different cultures and caste backgrounds?
3. Following the example of Jesus, do I try to spend time with and to walk in solidarity with the most marginalised members of society?
4. Aware of the teaching of Jesus, that many who are first will be last, do I try to be aware of my privileges, so as to humbly use them to empower others to be welcomed and included?
5. Do I allow a need for control and power to limit the opportunities given to others, or am I happy to let the efforts and talents of others shine forth, even if this takes the limelight and control away from myself?
6. Do I blame and judge those from other castes or cultures who are suffering poverty and oppression, or do I take the time to understand the challenges they face?
7. Have I made fun of, laughed at or been part of jokes that make fun of someone due to cultural background, caste or class? Have I participated and supported these jokes by my presence or silence?
8. Do I judge or expect someone to represent their entire culture, or do I see Jesus Christ, uniquely present in each person I encounter?