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?


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: