

THE TREE, ITS ROOTS AND ITS SOIL

Discover your Roots and the Soil you are planted in

A sharing Session

Intent of these jottings

- ✓ *To encourage people to go back to their roots and to the soil wherein they grew*
- ✓ *To help them to know themselves, and what made them what they are*
- ✓ *To realize that no man is "self-made", much of him is shaped, right from his birth, .by the circumstances of his life*

THE FABLE

There, in the middle of the forest, grew a majestic tree. One day, the roots and the soil remarked to the tree: "Everybody admires your stateliness and beauty. Your leaves, yours flowers and your fruits are best. You attract the praises of all. You are the best tree miles around.

But, have you ever thought of us, the roots that fed you and the soil you were planed?

Though unsung by anyone and unknown to all, it is we that hold you up high above your fellow trees and give you strength.

Though shapeless and without beauty, we sustain your beauty and greatness.

Though unscented, we supply you the perfume you exude in your many colored flowers.

Though seemingly barren, we provide you with the nutrients and vital sap with which you produce your enticing fruits. In fact, all you are, our dear tree, is ours!

After all, a tree is what its roots and its soil are.

POINTS FOR REFLECTION AND SHARING.

All of us are like trees. Besides trunk, branches, leaves, flowers and fruits, we have the roots that fed us and a soil wherein we grew. Have you ever thought of them?

Your Tree:

- First, describe what sort of tree are you? Tell us of your strengths, your beauty, your fruits and flowers, your achievements, successes, even failures.

Your roots:

- What and how were your roots, namely, your parents, your family members, and other significant people in your life? Think of them. Describe them.
- What influence have they had on you, on your character and personality? Describe.
- What values you imbibed from your home? Describe your family values and the life principles your family members instilled in you?

- Have you ever thanked your roots for what you are? Can you do it now? Then, do it!

Your soil:

- What has been the soil you are grounded: Your social environment, your cultural background, the economical class you belong to? Describe it.
 - How did it influence you in your way of thinking, evaluating and feeling?
 - In your social relationships?
 - In the way you see and perceive life?
- What influence your schooling, your teachers and tutors had on you? Describe
 - How much their imprint is still alive in you? Describe
 - How much do you remember them and the lessons they taught you for right living?
- What about your religious affiliation? Explain..
 - How much your Church and its ministers influenced you and helped you to be what you are? Describe
 - What moral and spiritual values they instilled in you? Tell us.
 - What ideals, goals and ambitions for life they infused you with? Can you share this with us?

Your present:

- Are you happy being the tree you are? Why?
- Is there anything you would like to change or improve in you? What?

Epilogue:

- Can you tell us the most important events, persons and circumstances in your life that helped you to be tree - the person - you are still now? Describe.
- Explain – applying it to you - the well-known sayings: "No man is an island".
- Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "No man is completely "self-made", Much of him is shaped by the circumstances of his life." Give reasons.