



## “GOD HEARS OUR CRY”

Catechism of the Catholic Church says, “Discipleship is the process of conforming oneself to Christ by imitating his life and teachings”.

Discipleship is a journey of intentional decisions leading to maturity in our relationship with Jesus so that we become more like Him in our attitudes.

Pope Leo XIV smiles as he arrives at the Wednesday General Audience on June 11, 2025 saying, “There is no cry God does not hear”. He reflects on the Gospel account of the healing of the blind man who cried out to Jesus and began to follow Him after his sight was restored. Though pope focus is on healing ministry of Jesus But I am to use the same narration from the view point of a disciple who is on his pilgrimage but unable to proceed due to loss of sight.

Jesus on his journey passes through the city of Jericho on the way to Jerusalem and there a blind man, Bartimaeus, who cried out to Jesus as He passed by...

- **The name** of the blind man, Bartimaeus, means “**son of honour or admiration**,” but has been reduced to begging by the side of the street.
- Bartimaeus **knows how to cry out for help**, and, although he is blind, “he sees better than others because he recognizes who Jesus is”.

Jesus responds to his cry because, “There is no cry that God fails to hear, even when we are not aware we are addressing Him.”

- Jesus does not go to Bartimaeus but calls him to Himself.
- Bartimaeus, “cast off his cloak,” giving up his security in order to allow himself to be his disciple.
- Finally, Jesus’ question, “What do you want Me to do for you”;
- Bartimaeus’ response: “Let me recover my sight.” In other words let me “regain my dignity.”



“Renew frequently your determination to be a saint. Strive for it without losing heart. Let your effort be always steady”, it is in this manner that Mother Eliswa understood her discipleship and God looked favorably upon her, restored her dignity. Prophecy at her infancy could be realized because of the unceasing plea of her heart to attain perfection for which she could willingly through off the cloak of security of married life, abandon the certainty of ancestral property and be on the road empty handed in her pursuit to follow Christ.

At times we disciples are stuck because life has humiliated us, and we are so struck in that incident that just don’t want to find our worth again. But we learn from Mother Eliswa to rise from the humiliations of life with faith of a disciple like Bartimaeus to be saved, for Jesus restores our dignity so that we can freely follow Him who is the Way!

Mother Eliswa took the initiative to build isolated cells for herself and her sister Thresia and daughter Anna. Jesus did not go to her but He called her and she responded not for a moment but for a life long journey.

As making disciples was the priority of Jesus so also restoring the dignity of marginalized group of people was the primacy for Mother Eliswa. Let us not remain on the side of the road begging but be on the road following Jesus!

**Sr. Leena ctc**

**Avila Province, Bhagalpur**