



## Conversion: It Can Happen to Anyone

The story of the conversion of Zacchaeus in the Gospel (Luke 19:1-10) is a beautiful account of one man's realization that things were not quite right in his life. He was attracted to what Jesus had to say and finally made the decision to live a good, honest life. How many people know deep within themselves that things should be changed in their lives, yet are unwilling or afraid to make the appropriate changes? At times, we may hear Jesus calling us to a new and better life. What is our response to this call?

If we respond as Zacchaeus did, we can be certain that there will be great rejoicing in heaven, as well as experiencing peace and joy within ourselves. With Zacchaeus' conversion, came a commitment to live differently and to make amends for his past dishonest deeds. When we experience conversion, we too, must make some kind of commitment to change for the better. We put aside our past and embrace what our Lord wishes to give us. Being creatures of habit, it is not always easy to change. We can grow comfortable in our actions and attitudes. Yet when Jesus presents Himself to us, we are offered so much more: a much better way of life than anyone else can offer.

Conversion is possible for anyone. The Lord calls everyone to a better way of life. Let us embrace what Jesus is offering us: the Gospel values, His living Word, and His own Body and Blood. With these gifts, we cannot go wrong. We will then be truly the people God has created us to be. There will be great peace in our lives and our search for meaning and purpose in life will come to fulfillment.

*Father David*

## St. Blaise and Blessing of Throats

February 3 is the feast day of St. Blaise, the patron saint of those afflicted with illness of the throat. Because February 3 falls on a Sunday this year, the general blessing of throats will be given at all Masses next weekend.

*Father David*