



NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 20, 2022



What If Judas Repented?

ANSWER: There would be a 9-Day Novena to St. Judas right now.

What I love about the Catholic Church is that she confidently names who is in Heaven, but she never says who is in Hell. We have a list of canonized Saints-- we don't have a list of condemned Sinners.

Because we don't know how deep is the ocean of God's Mercy.

When I was growing up, many, especially the religious, presumed that Judas was in Hell. But we don't know. We surrender Judas unto God's Mercy.

When we go to Heaven, we may be surprised Judas is right beside Peter. Because, we don't know, if, at the last moment before his last breath, Judas threw himself unto God's Mercy.

Friend, have you failed God? We all have.

Judas and Peter—the two betrayers in our story. Don't follow Judas.

Follow Peter.

Get up. Return to Jesus. Throw yourself unto His Mercy.

Have a grace-filled Feast today.

May your dreams come true,

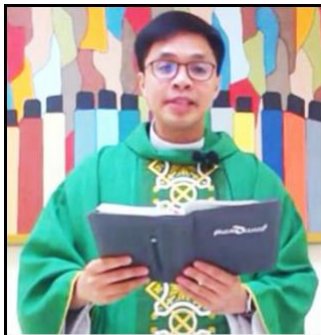
Bo Sanchez



LETTERS



YES, it's still February, the Hearts Month. So, yes, we can't help talking about Love. As we said last week, Valentine Love connotes romantic love. But, as we also said, what we focus on is much deeper than romantic love. It's all about Jesus' Divine Romance with us. And in this issue, it's all about His gifts.



First, the gifts of Happiness. Yes, gifts. Because there are different kinds of Happiness. Learn more from Fr. Paolo Asprer, *page 3*.

And then, the gifts of kisses. Yes, plural too. Our founder, Bro. Bo Sanchez, and Feast builder-preacher

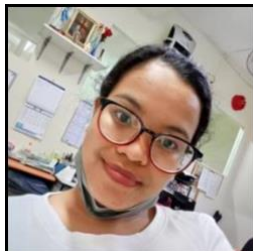



Bro. Audee Villaraza talked about them in last week's Feast. Details on *pages 8-20*.

And then, real, honest-to-goodness material gifts which our Jeremiah 33:6-7 Foundation received this February, *page 21*.



And then, non-material, yet priceless gifts like Sis. Kenia Alejandrino receives every day, *page 22*.



And then the best gift of all: a Heart who loves to give and keep on giving! 

All for God's Glory,

Randy Borromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director





FLASHBACK!

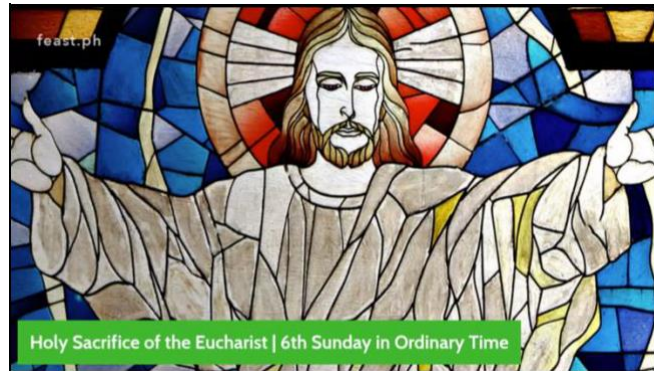
FEBRUARY 13, 2022

Holy Mass

FR. PAOLO ASPRER

on the Gospel: Luke 6:17, 20-26

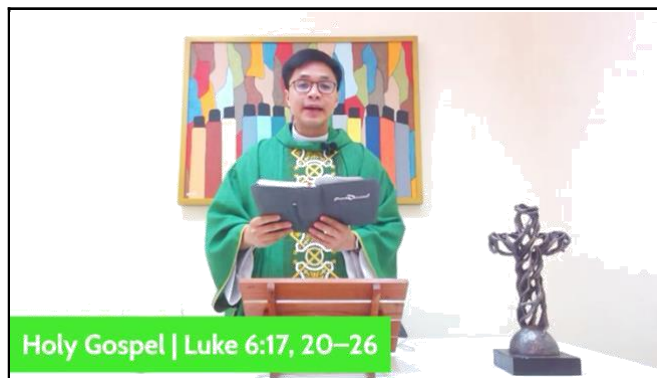
Blessings and Woes



Excerpts...

A BLESSED, a blissful, and a bountiful Sunday, Feasters!

What makes a person truly rich, truly happy, or favored or fortunate? You know, when we hear the words *happiness*, *blessing*, they are like magic words, aren't they? They make our eyes sparkle and, perhaps, our heart beat faster.



There are different kinds of happiness. Fleeting happiness or lasting happiness, empty happiness, or breathing happiness. So, if you ask those questions, "Are you truly happy?" "Do you feel really blessed?" -- they would bring tears in a person's eyes rather than solace in one's soul.

Feasters, when we hear the list of our Lord Jesus Christ about who are the truly happy, the truly blessed, it's crazy. His list jars our sensibilities.

Well, that is the truth about the Gospel. The Gospel coming from the Lord sometimes would shatter our all too human expectations and it would really disturb our comfort zones-- as it moves us to contrition, to conversion, to a change of heart, of outlook, and, perhaps, it leads us to a deeper charity.

What did Jesus mean when He said, "Blessed are the poor. Blessed are the hungry. Blessed are the weeping. Blessed are those hated for righteousness sake." You know, it only means that when God's Kingdom, when God's truth, when God's peace breaks into our heart, into our home, into our relationship, then we should be prepared for a great reversal of fortunes.

Losers, Winners

The losers for Christ's sake will emerge as winners. The last will be the first. The victims for Christ's righteousness will receive God's vindication, and the victims will become victors.

So, the truly blessed, the truly fortunate or happy is someone who radically puts his trust on God, and not on human beings. As we learn from the First Reading and Responsorial Psalm. Well, it's good to build our trust on people— but again, we know that people change, feelings change, priorities change, because of circumstances, and so we depend our trust on someone who's truly dependable, God Himself.



First Reading: [Jeremiah 17: 5-8](#)

5 *Thus saith the Lord: Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord.*

6 *For he shall be like tamaric in the desert, and he shall not see when good shall come: but he shall dwell in dryness in the desert in a salt land, and not inhabited.*

7 *Blessed be the man that trusteth in the Lord, and the Lord shall be his confidence.*

8 *And he shall be as a tree that is planted by the waters, that spreadeth out its roots towards moisture: and it shall not fear when the heat cometh. And the leaf thereof shall be green, and in the time of drought it shall not be solicitous, neither shall it cease at any time to bring forth fruit.*

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 1-2, 3, 4 and 6

R. (40:5a) Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.

1 *Blessed is the man who hath not walked in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stood in the way of sinners, nor sat in the chair of pestilence.*

2 *But his will is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he shall meditate day and night.*

R. Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.

3 *And he shall be like a tree which is planted near the running waters, which shall bring forth its fruit, in due season. And his leaf shall not fall off: and all whatsoever he shall do shall prosper.*

R. Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.

4 *Not so the wicked, not so: but like the dust, which the wind driveth from the face of the earth.*

6 *For the Lord knoweth the way of the just: and the way of the wicked shall perish.*

R. Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.



And, of course, the very foundation, the linchpin of our Christian trust, our hope for life's fulfillment is no less than the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus-- according to St. Paul in the Second Reading. That we believe that God is a God of new beginnings. That God is a God of justice and mercy. That God is a God of peace and fullness of life.



Second Reading: [First Corinthians](#)

15:12, 16-20

12 Now if Christ be preached, that he arose again from the dead, how do some among you say, that there is no resurrection of the dead?

16 For if the dead rise not again, neither is Christ risen again.

17 And if Christ be not risen again, your faith is vain, for you are yet in your sins.

18 Then they also that are fallen asleep in Christ, are perished.

19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, the firstfruits of them that sleep:

So, my dear Feasters, if there is a one-word definition for what Christian happiness, or joy, is all about, we only have one answer to that. Jesus. Living with Jesus and living for Jesus.

You don't work hard for it. Rather, we find ourselves in it because the joy, the happiness, that we have as followers of Christ is something that is bigger than us -- so we can never possess that joy. We can only open ourselves to that joy. We can only embrace and experience, and encounter that joy-- the joy that is centered on Jesus Christ.

So, we have here, our Lord Jesus-- He is truly a happy man. Well, He also experienced poverty, deprivation, but it is not that simply material deprivation. Rather, it is a deprivation of standing alone against the people, the deprivation of the rejected, being abandoned by His friends. He experienced hunger, but not only hunger for food-- but a deeper hunger and thirst for human love, for divine love, for doing what is right and good.

Longing for Love

Jesus, in the beatitudes, teaches us that we are made for God. So, any experience of hunger, thirst, desire, is really a manifestation of our poverty. We are all poor before God. We are all beggars before God. And the only One who can satisfy the deep longings of the human heart for true love, for fulfillment, is the One who created it. And we know and believe it is God himself.



So, true happiness is not in *having* or *possessing*, but it is actually in *being*. We are being, it's a state of being. It is not only in achieving things, but it is about receiving Jesus Himself as our greatest gift, the greatest gift of all.

Well, that's the paradox of Christian life.

If we want to be truly happy, then we make other people happy. If we want to be truly blessed, then we be a source of blessing for others. *Gusto nating maging masaya, magpasaya tayo ng tao. Kung gusto nating pagpalain tayo, maging daluyan tayo ng pagpapala.*

That's a paradox. It is only when we give that we receive. It is only when we die to our selfish self that we truly live.

What are real riches? Yes, we need material things, money, wealth-- these are all blessings from God. But there is more to money: *Meaning*. The meaningfulness of life. There is more to profitable life: a Purpose-driven life.

Maraming mabibili ang pera pero marami rin ang hindi mabibili ng pera. Money can buy food, but not appetite. Money can buy many houses and condominiums, but money cannot buy a home. Money can buy all the pleasures in this world, but money cannot buy manners. Money cannot buy true love.

We say that money, riches, wealth, they are the fruits of life. But people, relationships, integrity, peace of mind-- these are the roots of life. For sometimes, we can manage without the fruits but never the roots of life.

And now we ask ourselves, "Are we truly happy?"

Well, is that the most important question in life? Perhaps there is a deeper question than that. "Are we free? Is our life meaningful? Are we living a full life?" Amen.

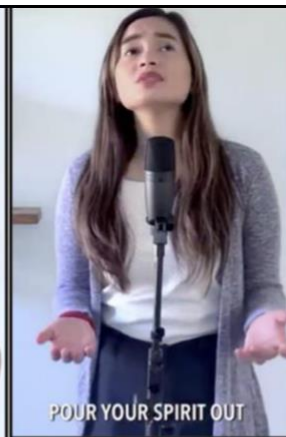
Worship!

EXHORTATION

VANYA CASTOR: Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always

(1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

This is the kind of love that reaches out for us no matter how far we are pulled back. A love that gives us a place to belong to. This is the kind of love, the Father's love, that continues to come to us fresh every day and gives us a reason to sing. So let's pour out our heart to Him in this song today.





FLASHBACK!

FEBRUARY 13, 2022

Talk



Protect
your
Kiss.

Jesus is
an Upside Down King
building
an Upside Down Kingdom.

His throne is His Cross.
His crucifixion is His coronation.
His execution is His exaltation.

WELCOME back to Matthew.

News Flash: We're about to end.
Four more talks and we're done.

And during these last four talks, I'll keep reminding you of the big message of Matthew's Gospel: *Jesus is an Upside-Down King building an Upside-Down Kingdom.*

Why is Jesus an upside-down King?

Think about it: *His throne is His Cross; His crucifixion is His coronation; His execution is His exaltation.*

Today, I want to preach the message, *Protect your Kiss.*

Warning about our readings today: As Catholics, we tend to easily zone out when we read again how Jesus was arrested and tried, blah, blah, blah— because we'd read these before. Especially during Holy Week.

But I ask you to read like it's the first time.

You'll be surprised at what you'll discover.

And I pray that God will speak to you in a fresh way.

What Does a Kiss Mean?



Let's start:

*And even as Jesus said this, Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent by the leading priests and elders of the people.
⁴⁵ The traitor, Judas, had given them a prearranged signal: 'You will know which one to arrest when I greet him with a kiss.'
⁴⁹ So Judas came straight to Jesus. 'Greetings, Rabbi!' he exclaimed and gave him the kiss.

Why would Judas kiss Jesus? Why not a hi-five? Or a fist bump? Just kidding. Granted, they didn't do those gestures 2000 years ago-- but why not a wave or a handshake or even a hug? Or point to Him and say, "Jesus!"

Why specifically a kiss?

Bible scholars think it has something to do with Psalm 2.

Psalm 2 is the Psalm about the Messiah, the Anointed One,

the coming King. And 2:12 (NIV) says: "Kiss the Son"

Since Jews knew those verses by heart, it's very possible that Judas used the kiss as an *ironic insult*. Perhaps, the same way the Roman soldiers, a few verses later, would crown Jesus with thorns and kneel before Him in mockery and say, **"Hail! King of the Jews!"** (27:29 NLT)

Here's my guess.
Jesus is asking us:

What kind of kiss
do you give Me?
Is it a kiss of love or
is it a kiss of betrayal?

Yes, we pray. And go to church.
But does that mean we actually
obey Jesus?

Not necessarily.

That's why early in Matthew's
Gospel, Jesus said:



Mt 7:21 NLT

'Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.'

Fake or Faithful

May I give a rough analogy?

One day, after The Feast, a woman walked up to me and said, "Brother Bo, I follow you on Instagram (IG) and I see how romantic you are to your wife. My husband is like you. He loves giving me flowers. He likes telling me he loves me. And because he's a singer, he likes serenading me..."

As she was telling me this, I knew there was something wrong. Because I saw deep sadness in her eyes.

She continued, "But Brother Bo, a long time ago, I knew it was all fake. Because three times, I caught him with another woman."

That's the day when it dawned on me that romance and love are two different things. Both are important, but one more than the other.

A kiss is a symbol. In the same way that all our prayers and worship and novenas and Bible studies are symbols. But underneath them all, what do they mean? Do they still symbolize your love for God?

Let me say it again: "*Protect your kiss.*"

Later on, we'll meet a few folks who lost the purity of their kiss.

Protect
your
Kiss.

Put Your Sword Away



Let's continue reading our main story...

We find ourselves in this story right now where Judas had just kissed Jesus on the cheek.

And, you know, it was a stolen kiss. Usually, stolen kisses are unacceptable in most societies. Some even consider it to be a form of sexual harassment. Unless, of course, you know, it's your crush who kissed you. Then it's no longer a harassment. It's an agreement between two parties, right?

Anyway, for the next few minutes, here's what I want you to do. I want to talk to you about this topic: *The Power of Intention*. I want you to turn your Bible to Matthew Chapter

26:50. Here, Jesus happens to be talking to the Roman soldiers who were about to apprehend Him and then Jesus says:

Matthew doesn't

identify who this swordman was. But we find out in John 18:10 that it was actually Peter. Now, quick question: Why in the world was Peter-- a peace-loving, gospel-preaching, kingdom-building disciple—why was he carrying a sword to begin with? He's a disciple of Jesus. Why was he carrying a weapon?

I don't know. Maybe it's because, you know, Judea was infested with thieves and snatchers. You know, not the motorcycle kind, but the donkey-riding kind, right? I don't know—most probably...

But you know, one thing's for sure...

Mt 26:50-52 NLT

Jesus said, "My friend, go ahead and do what you have come for." Then the others grabbed Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹ But one of the men with Jesus pulled out his sword and struck the high priest's slave, slashing off his ear. ⁵² "Put away your sword," Jesus told him. "Those who use the sword will die by the sword."

Here's the truth: Just because you say you're a follower of Jesus-- you think that you are a disciple of the Lord -- it doesn't mean that you will not have a propensity for violence.

You know, there are so many who say they love the Lord—in public. But then in private, when the door is closed, what do they do? They beat their wife and kids. Some of them steal. Some back-stab their friends...

I mean, Peter was not a violent man. He was passionate, yes, but not violent. So, what happened? Peter's intention somehow disconnected with his action.

Let me say it again: Peter's intention did not align with his action. Peter's intention was good. I mean, that much we can deduce. He wanted to protect Jesus. That's all he wanted to do. But somehow his intention became disjointed from his actions.

Remember this: The right intention does not always guarantee the right execution.

As American inventor Thomas Edison said:

So, if your intention is for good, then...

your approach, your execution, must also be good. Otherwise, your intention will only lead to a poor outcome. This explains why, although Peter had a good heart, you know, but his good intentions still led him to violence. What would have been the right execution?

Jesus actually showed it to us a few verses before. It says in verse 40, and I quote:

Take a look at this. With one sword Peter was ready to take on a small Roman army ready to arrest Jesus. And yet, before that, Peter could not even pray with Jesus for just one hour. I mean, what does that say to you and me? For one thing, prayer is the best weapon but it is also the most difficult. To trust God is not the easiest thing to do but it's the wisest thing to do.



Truth

The right intention
doesn't guarantee the
right execution

*'A good intention, with a bad approach,
often leads to a poor result.'*

- Thomas Edison

Mt 26:40 NLT

Then he came to the disciples and found them asleep, and said to Peter, "What? Could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation."

Prayer is the best weapon,
but it's also the most difficult.

Jesus shows us the right approach-- is to what? To pray. Because prayer helps ward off temptation. But it also aligns our intention with God's heart.

But instead of praying with Jesus, what did Peter and the boys do? They dozed off. They fell asleep. There's a Filipino saying:

"Awayin mo na ang lasing
wag lang ang bagong gising"



In English, fight with a drunkard but never pick a fight with a newly awakened person. I don't care how good the person is. If you wake me up in the middle of a good dream, I will not hesitate to karate-chop you on the neck. All right? Let me just say it again, all right? Even if you have the right intention but then you've got the wrong execution, you will still have poor outcome. What do you need to do?

Pray to the Lord often. Jesus says in verse 52: "Put away your sword."

When Peter used the sword, he accomplished very little. He was able only to slash off one ear. You know what's more powerful than the sword? God's Word. The more time you spend with the Lord the more you are aligned with His Word.



God's Word is more powerful
than any sword.

And when you've got the Word of God with you, I'm telling you, you are armed to pierce the heart of people more than any weapon could. Hebrews 4:12 says:

For the Word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow.

Give me an
"Amen" if you
believe that.
Oh, that's right.

What's more powerful than any weapon is the Word of God.
So, let's use that as a weapon.

Anyway, let's continue with this story. Jesus says in Verse 53:

Mt 26:53-56 NLT

'Don't you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly?'⁵⁴ But if I did, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that describe what must happen now?'⁵⁵ Then Jesus said to the crowd, 'Am I some dangerous revolutionary, that you come with swords and clubs to arrest me? Why didn't you arrest me in the Temple? I was there teaching every day.'⁵⁶ But this is all happening to fulfill the words of the prophets as recorded in the Scriptures.' At that point, all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Let me say this again:

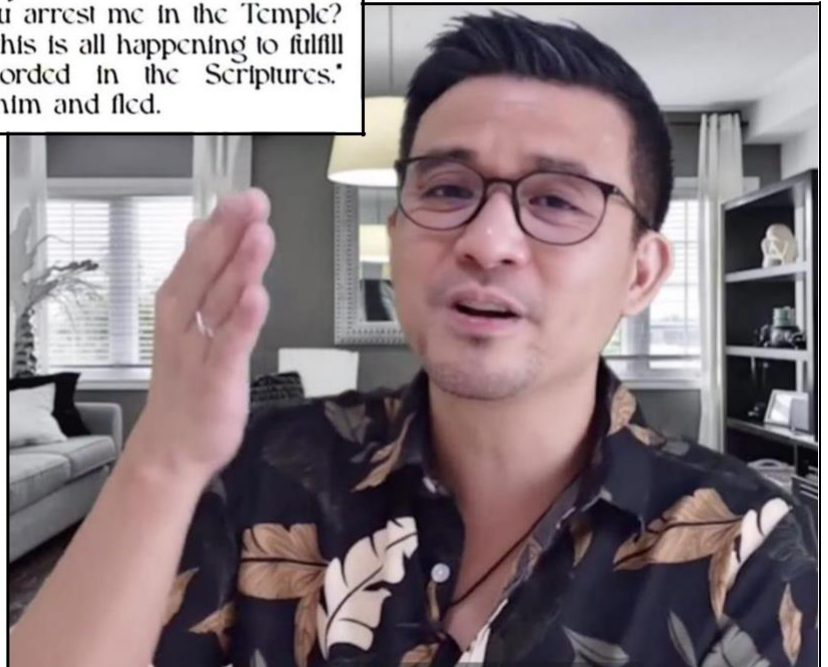
All the disciples close to Him deserted Him and fled. You know,

I would understand if these people were just an acquaintance of Jesus, or maybe if they were just long-lost relatives visiting Him. But these were the immediate disciples of Jesus. They were part of His family. You know, they witnessed His miracles. They saw Him bring the dead back to life,

give sight to blind, and chase away demons. I mean, they even confessed with their own lips that He was the Son of God.

But, you know, truth be told: When push comes to shove, the weak always hits the road. And, this is the truth, my friend. We never really know the true state of our heart until a great trial comes. And then all of a sudden, we need to grapple with it. Even the best of intentions can be shaken by great tribulations.

That's why it's so valuable that our heart has roots anchored to the Lord, so that when the storms come, our resilience and faithfulness will not be easily blown away. Amen.



Even the best intentions
can be shaken by great tribulations.

Peter: Sinner or Saint?

What happens next: Verse 57:

Mt 26:57-58 NLT

"Then the people who had arrested Jesus led him to the home of Calaphas, the high priest, where the teachers of religious law and the elders had gathered. ⁵⁸ Meanwhile, Peter followed him at a distance and came to the high priest's courtyard. He went in and sat with the guards and waited to see how it would all end.



You know, I find this so amusing—that Peter was afraid of suffering the same persecution. So, what did he do? He separated himself from Jesus. But then he still followed Him at a distance. To observe, yes? To act as a witness? Could be. But you know a part of me wants to think that it was because Peter wanted to prove to himself that Jesus was actually wrong about him. That he was not a deserter or a denier.

And you know, sometimes when we're caught doing the wrong thing, instead of apologizing or repenting, we try to justify it by saying, "Hey, my intentions are good, my heart is good."

We become so defensive about it. You know, we don't have to be that way around Jesus.

Let me tell you now: We can come to Him with our shame and then we can ask for His mercy just the same.



All right, Verse 59:

Mt 26:59 NLT

⁵⁹ Inside, the leading priests and the entire high council were trying to find witnesses who would lie about Jesus, so they could put him to death...

You know, in these modern times, they would call this a Kangaroo Court. This happens when those who are in charge are the ones who are also bending the law to fit their personal agenda. Matthew said that the members of the High Council were trying to find witnesses who would "lie" about Jesus.

The Way To Live

But then the continuation of Verse 59 says:

Mt 26:59 NLT

...even though they found many who agreed to give false witness, they could not use anyone's testimony.

I want you to listen to this, all right. This is the remarkable testimony on the integrity of Jesus—that even when He wasn't liked by many, by some, it was difficult for the Council to convince anybody who was willing to give a lie about the character of Jesus. You know, if anything, this should encourage us even more to follow Jesus.

Let me show you this example: Duke Ellington, one of my musical inspirations when I was growing up was a famous jazz singer in the early 1920s—and no, I wasn't born in the '20s, okay? I just happened to have an old soul. He said

a beautiful testimony about his fellow jazz singer Louie Armstrong who wrote and sang the beautiful song *What a Wonderful World*.

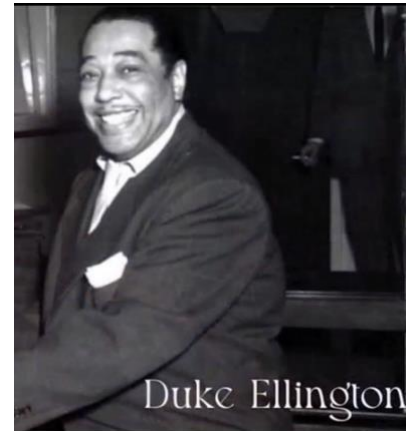
And I quote what Duke said about Louie:

What a beautiful way to

live your life. Don't you agree? Here's my advice, coming from that quote: Strive to do the right things every day. You know, do good, work hard—do your thing. Get yourself out there-- but be honest. Don't lie. Don't hurt anybody deliberately.

And, at the end of the day, when things don't go your way, remember that you didn't lose-- because in the eyes of God you actually won. What did you win? You won your dignity. You won your integrity. You won your honesty. Ultimately, you won your soul.

You know, if you could live an honest life, a life filled with compassion and kindness, and love—without hurting anybody along the way-- no one can lie about who you are, about your character. And if, for some reason, you know, if somebody would be willing to give a false testimony about you, you can trust that God will be the One to acquit and reward you. Amen.



'He was born poor, died rich, and he never hurt anyone along the way.'

- Duke Ellington





When You Know the Truth

That's actually what happened in the trial of Jesus. Eventually they were able to find two men who would lie about Him.

Mt 26:60 63 NLT

Finally, two men came forward ⁶⁴ who declared, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the Temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'"

⁶⁵ Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Well, aren't you going to answer these charges? What do you have to say for yourself?" ⁶³ But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I demand in the name of the living God—tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God."

I want you to take note of the patience of Jesus right now. Jesus could have mounted a magnificent defense in the opening argument of the High Council. Instead, He remained silent. Why?

Because Jesus knew the truth. When you know the truth, you will have the courage to withstand any lie. Why? Because your intentions are clear. Your conscience is clear. You know that God's justice will defend you. That God's justice is always exact and never late.

As Jesus said it in Verse 64:

I mean, my goodness. The Defendant turned out to be the Judge.

You know, my friend, be careful when you judge people. Because there is only One Judge. And make no mistake, He is seated at the right hand of God. And He will come to judge all of us in the proper time. Let's read Verse 65:

Mt 26:64 NLT

⁶¹ Jesus replied, "You have said it. And in the future you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God's right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven."



Mt 26:65 68 NLT

⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his clothing to show his horror and said, "Blasphemy! Why do we need other witnesses? You have all heard his blasphemy." ⁶⁶ What is your verdict? "Guilty!" they shouted. "He deserves to die!" ⁶⁷ Then they began to spit in Jesus' face and beat him with their fists. And some slapped him. ⁶⁵ Jeering "Prophecy to us, you Messiah!"

Intention

This is what we've been discussing all this time: Intention. You know, to the High Council, perhaps, their intention was good. They thought they were protecting the Church by prosecuting this "blasphemer". But you know their intention was clouded by sin and fueled by hatred. Good intention might have made them Church leaders but the wrong execution may reduce them to mere thugs—you know, street bullies who took advantage of a helpless and defenseless man.



I want you to remember this. They started with good intention at one point in their life. You know, they made a sincere vow to serve God with all of their heart. But then sadly, their intention was clouded over time with pride and slowly their ego took over.

I want to share with you, and close, with this personal story. I shared this at The Feast many times. I did a personal vlog about this one.

There was a time when I actually started a vlog. I called it Audiebles – Audie...bles—you get it. I wanted to use it as a platform to bless and encourage people-- by giving a good message, a positive message.

I started with a very good intention. And I got to about eight episodes when I noticed something... All of a sudden, I noticed that the moment I posted a vlog – on Instagram, Facebook-- I kept on checking my phone-- again and again--you know, to see how many liked my post, who commented on it.

And, you know, at first, it was a source of joy. Let me be honest: It was a source of joy. Wow, so many were blessed by my message. But then, over time, it started to be a source of anxiety-- How come this vlog got only 1,500 views but the other one got 3,000 views?

I mean, I started questioning: Was my message not any good? Am I not any good? And you know, that's what I knew... and this is just me, all right? This is just me-- I knew that my heart changed. My intention was to let people draw closer to the Lord through my message. But then, I found that it was becoming more and more about myself and lesser about God. So, you know what I did? I stopped-- you know-- cold turkey. No hesitation. No regret. I just stopped.

God is more concerned about the WHY
more than the WHAT.

What's Most Important

Here's my belief... You can quote me on this: It's not *what* you do that's important. It's *why* you do it. That's the most important.

Why? Because God is more concerned about the *why* more than the *what*.

This brings us now to a full circle on the message that Bro. Bo preached: *Protect your kiss.*

Did you know that your kiss is one of the most personal and prized gifts that you can give to somebody?

Think about it. I mean, you know, you cannot kiss someone by accident, right? I mean there's no such thing as landing on someone's face accidentally, right? When you give away your kiss, it's intentional. It's deliberate. And what you're doing is that you're actually giving your consent for somebody to kiss you back.

Tomorrow is Valentine's Day. And I know there will be a lot of romantic moments for many of you. Okay. But before you give your most precious kiss, check if your heart is in the right place. That's how you protect your kiss.

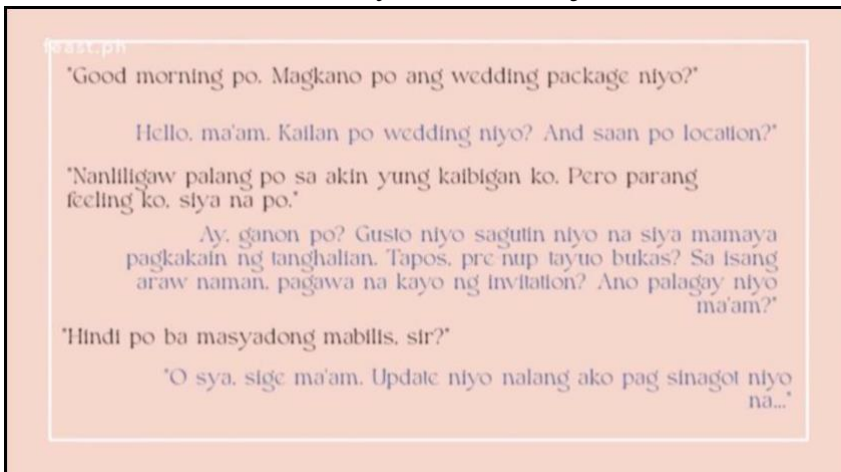
Let me share something to you that I found on the Internet. This made me laugh so much. It's in Tagalog—okay, I'm not going to translate it. It's a conversation between two persons: a wedding coordinator and a lady who is inquiring about a wedding that she was going to have.

And it goes like this:

It's funny. But this is just evidence that sometimes we are so quick in giving what's precious to us.

Let me just repeat this -- again and again: Whoever you allow into your personal spaces will occupy a special space your heart.

So, I encourage you to always evaluate your reasons. Ask yourself: "Why? Why will I allow this person into my life?"



But, of course, you know, let's be honest: You probably will not be able to discern that on your own. Because on your own, you know your heart can be fickle and playful. Sometimes your heart will try to convince you --especially if you like that person. What do you do?

Share your thoughts with the Lord. Expose your temptations to Him. Share your failure. Share your confusion. Share your weak points. I mean, just be vulnerable in the presence of God.

You can even do what Paul did. He said:

2 Cor. 12:9 NLT
So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.'



Come before the Lord and expose your heart to Him.

Because the truth is, it is easy to lose the purity of your heart especially when you're not watching it. But the power of Christ-- it can put your heart always in the right place.

Let's pray. Let's come in the presence of the Lord right now.

Thank You so much, Jesus. We thank You, Lord, for this message and we want You to do a spiritual surgery in our heart right now. Set it off right now in the right motion and cleanse us, Lord, of whatever wrong motivation inside us. But then also teach us to execute in the right way. We want our heart to be clean but we want our actions to be cleaner. This is our prayer, in Jesus's Name.



MERCY MINISTRY

Valentine Love

VALENTINE connotes romantic love. But for Jeremiah 33:6-7 Foundation, Valentine Love means God's Timeless Love.

Jeremiah provides shelter for minor girls, particularly victims of sexual abuse.



As February, the Hearts Month approached, the Foundation received gifts for our beneficiaries.

Feast Ortigas District gave a check dated February 5, 2022, amounting to P100,000.00.

On February 14, as we celebrated Valentine's Day,

we received food from Sis. Poleng Hernandez, one of our regular sponsors.

On February 15, Sis. Joie Cabrillas, Jeremiah Board member, brought to the shelter Bible copies and toiletries donated by Feast Valle Verde.

Yes, Valentine or not, it's all about God's Limitless, Endless Love, fulfilling God's Promise to Judah and Israel, and the rest of us, on which our Foundation has been anchored:
6 Behold, I will bring to it health and healing, and I will heal them and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security. 7 I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel, and rebuild them as they were at first.

--Jeremiah 33:6-7 English Standard Version

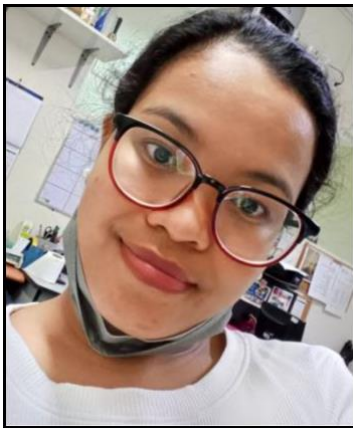




BLESSINGS

Better COVID Days

By **KENIA ALEJANDRINO**



AS a young adult, I know many can relate to the story that I'm going to share.

I am working in the Light of Jesus Family as part of the administration of the Feast Light section which takes care of the small prayer groups that are spin-offs of The Feast, our faith gathering. I manage social media links, provide



information, answer inquiries about the LOJ Feast Light. These are small groups of who meet each week to pray together and share how God's Word, discussed in The Feast, applies in each one's life.

Isolated, Alone

I've been working from home since the Coronavirus Disease (COVID) Pandemic began in 2020, and as of this writing, continues to wreak havoc worldwide.

I can't help feeling alone, isolated for almost two years now.

I feel there are days when time moves so fast and some days too slow. There are times I feel like I should have learned more. I should have grown more. I feel I have not done anything important. I've been thinking about the past and what I should have done better. At the same time, I've been contemplating about how my future will be. Five years from now, will I have learned enough? Will I have used my time well enough? Will I be still working at home, in front of my desk? Will I be still complaining?

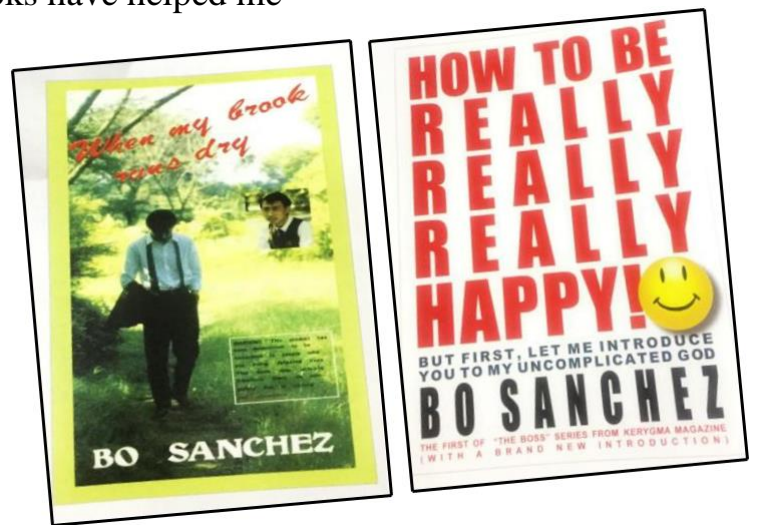
For God's Glory

On better days, I am like, "How did I get so lucky?" That I am working for God, and no matter how hard I pull back, I am always being reminded by the love and the grace of God. *Wala akong kawala sa pagmamahal niya.*

I work for His glory and I am blessed that I am able to see His glory every waking day of my life--no matter what my mind tells me.

Didache, the daily Bible reflection written by ordinary people, and *Companion*, a Catholic Scripture guide, which makes reading the Bible easier with a journal space, and other Feast Books have helped me reflect and think positive every day.

I am blessed to have my family and friends beside me in whatever season, and I am so grateful. God has never left me. Even though I cannot see Him, I feel Him through the people I value, through the books I read, and through the joyful thoughts that overpower my negative thoughts.



Now, thanks to lower Quarantine alert level in Manila, I am able to go out and work in the LOJ office when I need to. But still, most of the time, I work from home.

Nevertheless, the past is past. I don't know what the future holds. But there's this Bible verse that has helped me get by: "*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.*" (Isaiah 43:2)

God is with me no matter what, and I am so blessed to know and believe that.

*It's your turn! Share your blessings and be a blessing to others to glorify God.
Email now your story to library2819@gmail.com.*



Thank You!

The Feast Family, now organized as the **Feast Mercy Ministries**, is a spin-off ministry of the Light of Jesus Family founded by Bro. Bo Sanchez, earlier named as Kerygma Family, a unique online, non-physical, borderless, international community of friends who support each other's personal growth.

Partner beneficiaries of the Feast Mercy Ministries flourish because of your generous support.

Thank you for being with us. We pray that you find your daily source of inspiration from the resources that we send to you. We pray too that you may consider giving to The Feast Family. No gift is too small.

Thank you very much in advance for your gift. Our prayer is that God will continue to reward you as you give.

FOR EXISTING DONORS:

Thank you for the Love. Your monthly donation helps us continue extending support to our Light of Jesus spin-off organizations, including our partner beneficiaries. Your gift will sustain our operations and, we hope, help us reach out to the persons our Lord has called us to make disciples and give them renewed hope.

Be a Feast Family member. Write or call us. Now.

Email Address: jocelyn@kerygmfamily.com

Website: <https://kerygmfamily.com>

Telephone Numbers: 8725-9999/ Fax 725-1230

Our Partner Beneficiaries

Email Address: mercyministries@feast.ph Website: www.feastmercyministries.com

Jeremiah 33 Foundation is a shelter for girls particularly victims of sexual abuse.



Grace To Be Born is a halfway home for pregnant women in crisis.



He Cares Mission provides shelter for street children.

Pag-asa ng Pamilya Foundation gives scholarships to poor students.



Jesus Christ Cares for Cancer provides financial assistance and pastoral care for indigent cancer patients.

The Light of Jesus Pastoral Care Center ministers to those who are emotionally and spiritually wounded.



H.A.I.L. MARY is acronym for Healthcare Assistance for Indigents and Lepers of Mary, adopting the Blessed Mother as the patroness of its mission to eradicate leprosy in Abra within 8–10 years.



The Light of Jesus Disaster Recovery Ministry provides evacuation assistance, relief goods, financial aid, and other needs of calamity victims.



The Light of Jesus Prison Ministry brings Jesus to the Correctional Institution for Women to give the women hope for a new life of dignity.



Anawim Lay Missions Foundation provides a home for poor elderly who have been abandoned by their family and have nowhere else to go.

CHOOSE HOW YOU WANT TO GIVE

1. Donate ONLINE (through credit card) Go to www.kerygmfamily.com and click 'DONATE' box Paypal I US Donations.
2. Pick Up from Your House or Office
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Note: Text, Fax or email to us your name, date and amount of deposit, and the branch of the bank where you deposited your donation, or fax the deposit slip to us. Email us at support@kerygmfamily.com or text us at (63) 922-828-9890/ (63) 998-968-4416 or Fax to (+632) 725-1230.



**FAMILY
ONLINE
NEWSMAGAZINE**

The Feast Family online newsmagazine is produced
by the Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television
Foundation, which is also our partner beneficiary, with
editorial services by the Light of Jesus Family Library
Ministry.

Founder: Bo Sanchez

Mercy Ministries Chairman
Hermie Morelos

Editor-in-Chief
Cynthia U. Santiago

Chief Photographer
Edmundo L. Santiago

**Feast International
Region Head**
Vic Español

Reporter-Writer
Cybill P. Bayto

Media Ministries Head
Randy Borromeo

Contributors
The Feast Builders

Finance Officer
Rowena Cequeña

Publication Consultant
Chelle Crisanto

Human Resources Manager
Erika Ventura



For comments, article contributions, write or call us:

Email Address: lojlibrary2819@gmail.com

Landline phone numbers: 8725-9999, Fax 725-1230

Mobile phone: 0998-953-0657

Go and make disciples of all men.

— Matthew 28:19