



NEWSLETTER
April 3, 2022



Love One Person at a Time

I HEAR this often: “Bo, there is too much suffering in this world. So much corruption. So much evil. What can we do? It’s all useless.”

So, we don’t even try to do anything.

To answer this, I tell them this old story that I love so much.

One day, a man was walking on the beach. A storm had passed the day before. And he saw that the waves had washed into the shore thousands of starfishes, all of them now drying up under the sun. That was when he saw a little boy picking up starfishes, and throwing them back to the sea.

He walked up to the boy and said, “There are too many of them. It’s useless. It won’t make a difference at all!”

The little boy picked up a starfish, looked at it, and smiled. “It makes a big difference to this one,” and he threw it back into the sea.

How do you change the world? Love one person at a time.

Have a powerful Feast!

May your dreams come true,

Bo Sanchez

Bo Sanchez



LETTERS

Found!

THE GOSPEL last Sunday, March 27, 2022, was about the *Parable of the Lost Sheep*. So, this issue of *The Feast Family* centers on the Lost and the Found.

More on the Found—as our title suggests.



In his homily at The Feast Mass, Fr. Albert Garong points out what's wrong about the younger son, the Lost Sheep, as well as the older son who--surprise!--is also lost.

And we might just find out that what's wrong with them is also what's wrong with us. Surprise!, *page 3*.

Our founder, Bro. Bo Sanchez, and Bro. Audee Villaraza, Feast Builder and Preacher, continuing our series on *Citizen: How To Build a Nation*, say each of us has dual citizenship -- and they give pointers how you and I can find out how to be great with both gifts, *pages 9-25*.

Our *Mercy Ministries* section is definitely about the *Found*: the beneficiaries of our Pag-asang Pamilya Scholarship Foundation—and how the Ministry is finding ways to provide tuition grants for them.

And we are sharing the story with you because if you feel the Lord is calling you to help, find out how, *page 26*.



All for God's Glory,

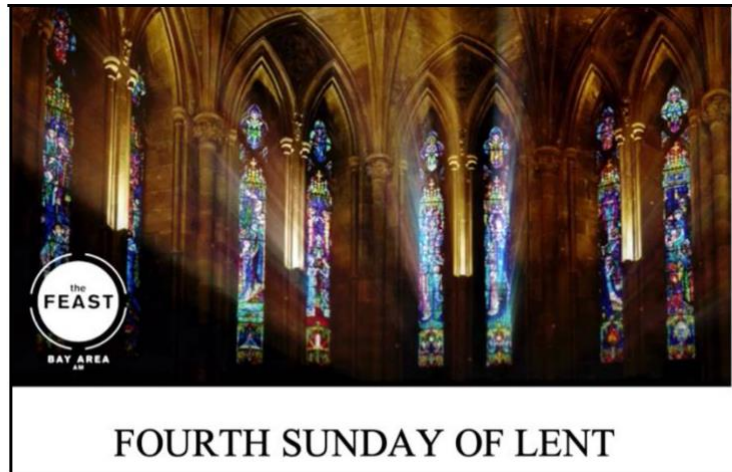
Randy Borromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director





FLASHBACK!
MARCH 27, 2022

Holy Mass



FR. ALBERT GARONG

on the Gospel Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Parable of the Lost Sheep

Excerpts...

TODAY we celebrate a very special moment in the Church's liturgy.

Every year, on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, we celebrate what we call *Laetare Sunday*. *Laetare* means to *rejoice*. *Huwag muna tayong sumimangot ngayon*.

The Church is looking forward to Easter because it is already the halfway point of Lent. And we are being reminded that all these Lenten observances, they are not to punish ourselves or to make ourselves sad or feel pain. All of these are done because of a deeper purpose-- and that is to commemorate the Resurrection of the Lord on Easter Sunday.

That's why we wear rose. That's the only reason we wear rose--I just want to be clear. And if you do find on the Internet statements of otherwise, kindly help us clarify. Okay? So I am giving you an assignment.

You know, my favorite Sacrament is Confession. Of course, I love the Mass. The Mass is supremely important. All the Sacraments are important. But I must admit that at this point in my priesthood, nothing makes my heart flutter as when a person comes to me and says, "*Father, pwede mangumpisal?*" Because it's such a grace-filled moment that I'm so honored and privileged to be part of.



What Is the *Core Lie* in Your Life?

When I am in Confession-- if time permits and the person seems ready—I like to ask a certain question. So, if you go to me you might anticipate this.

I always ask at the end of the person's confession, "In all of these days, what do you think is the *core lie* that is in your life right now?"

Because all the things we confess, they can all be traced back to certain falsehoods, certain wrong ideas and notions that support all those other actions that you do.

You are envious because you feel that you're insufficient. You are greedy because you feel that God's grace is not enough and so on and so forth.

So, I always challenge a person-- a further reflection to think about what is the *lie-- yung kasinungalingan na malalim na nandiyan sa puso mo--* that is making you commit all those terrible things.

I share that because our Gospel for today really cuts through a lot of things and makes us focus on some fundamental things in our faith. It makes us confront two fundamental lies that we are all guilty of.

The first lie is represented best by the younger son. What is that lie? What did the young son do? He took his share and he went away. He went away from his home and took all those riches from the father-- and he thought that he had enough, the wealth is sufficient for him.

That is the first lie that we're all guilty of. We take this life that we've been given-- the graces, the blessings we have received-- and we take them away from God.

We think, "*Okay na 'ko. Blessed na 'ko. Nakapag-aral na 'ko. Meron na akong trabaho.* So I can start living my life not so dependent on God anymore. I can go on alone, make it on myself. I'm strong and independent."

And yet, *kahit gaano karaming yaman 'yung dinala nung anak palayo, naubos*—no matter how much the wealth, it was exhausted.

That's what happens when you cut yourself away from God, from the source. Once you start thinking that you are sufficient and once you stop relying on God, whatever good thing you have going on right now, it will run out-- *maubos*. Because you have cut yourself away from the actual source of all goodness, of all mercy, of all grace. That is the one thing that we are guilty of at a certain point in our life.

We say, "*Okay na 'ko. Pwede na akong mag-sarili. Pwede na 'kong hindi magdasal masyado.* I can let go of my prayer time today. God will understand."

And it becomes a habit. And we realize we have gone so far away from God.



The Second Lie

The second lie that we need to focus on is about the older son. And what is that?

This older son has more complicated image Why? Because this son is a good son-- even the father acknowledges it: “*Mabuting anak ka. You are obedient.*”

And yet something was missing. That son stayed with the father, fulfilled all the duties expected of the son but when time came that this happened, something came out of him.

Na ang tingin niya sa sarili niya, servant lang. Alipin. Ang tingin niya sa sarili niya ay mabuting tagapaglingkod ng kanyang boss. Ang tingin niya sa tatay niya is a superior, a boss. Ang may ari ng lupa—he thought of himself just a servant of his father. But he didn’t refer to himself as a son.

We are also guilty of this. How? We are good to follow the rudiments of our religion, of our faith. We attend Mass, we pray the Rosary, we go to novenas. *Ang dami nating ginagawa* and we check those boxes, and yet there is a part of us that is detached from what God is telling us and what God is asking of us.

Kung tutuusin, yung older son dapat kilala na niya ‘yung tatay niya—actually, the son should have already known his father. He was with him all this time. He should not have been surprised that the father, that such a loving father, would rejoice that his son has returned. But the older son did not know his father. The older son just settled on being a servant, on being a follower.

Our Father, our God, always invites us to go beyond being a follower. You cannot buy His love by your religiosity. You cannot buy His favor with the things that you do for Him because God’s love is not for sale. It is freely given.



Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

2 I will praise Yahweh from my heart; let the humble hear and rejoice.

3 Proclaim with me the greatness of Yahweh, let us acclaim his name together.

4 I seek Yahweh and he answers me, frees me from all my fears.

5 Fix your gaze on Yahweh and your face will grow bright, you will never hang your head in shame.

6 A pauper calls out and Yahweh hears, saves him from all his troubles.

7 The angel of Yahweh encamps around those who fear him, and rescues them.



One Powerful Truth

The Gospel, the parable, confronts us with one powerful truth-- but it is a truth presented to us not in a statement, not in a command. The truth is presented to us in an image of a father running out to his child, to his sinful, stubborn, hard-headed children.

Sabi ng ibang scholars-- scholars say, we don't have a better picture of who God is than this image-- nothing comes close to this father

who is running towards his sinful children-- because that is the point. That is why we ask people to rejoice today, because we are being reminded that for all our sins, for all the lies that fool us, for all the things that take us away from God, His love is still deeper, more powerful, still stronger.

*Wala tayong pwedeng itapat na kasalanan sa Diyos na hindi niya kayang tabunan ng pagmamahal niya dahil hindi 'yun nauubos--*we rejoice because we are given this love freely and generously, this love that reminds us and makes us a better creation.

My most favorite part in the parable is actually when the father asked his servants to put a robe on his son and a ring in his finger, and put sandals on his feet. *Dahil yun naman ang ginagawa ng Diyos para sa atin*—because that is what God is doing for us. When we are confronted by God, He is not going to berate us for our sinfulness. He is not going to enumerate your faults and make you feel bad about yourself.

God simply tells us, when we allow Him to speak to us, “You are so much more than what you think. You are my beloved child and nothing can take that away from you.

So, stop living according to these lies and embrace this truth: God loves you.

Reading 2, Second Corinthians 5:17-21

17 So for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation: the old order is gone and a new being is there to see.

18 It is all God's work; he reconciled us to himself through Christ and he gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

19 I mean, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not holding anyone's faults against them, but entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

20 So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were urging you through us, and in the name of Christ we appeal to you to be reconciled to God.

21 For our sake he made the sinless one a victim for sin, so that in him we might become the uprightness of God.



Worship!

EXHORTATIONS



NORREN RODRIGUEZ: The Word says, “Now, the Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there us freedom!” (2 Corinthians 3:17).

So, as we worship, let us remember how God comes to us so we can experience the freedom and joy that only He can give.

Come on, let’s sing and dance together!

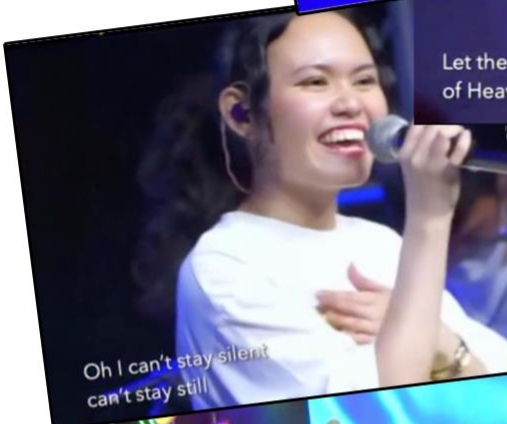


AUDEE VILLARAZA: You know there is always one person who I see in every Worship session. That one person does not care if he or she can sing, doesn’t care if they know the lyrics but this person will sing, will praise, and will worship the Lord. That’s my kind of crowd. They don’t care if I know the song. I don’t care if anybody is looking at me but I will praise the Lord. That kind of crowd. Do we have any kind of persons like that right now? And some of you are thinking, “*Ang OA naman nito. Kung maka-Worship, ang taas ng kamay, wala naman sa tono.*”

You know what, let me just say this: It’s because you don’t know the context or the background of that person. You did know that there was a time and a day when they were sick, but God healed them. You did not know that there was a day that they were broken, but God restored them. And so, don’t mind them if they praise a little bit. Don’t mind them if they shout a little bit. Because they just want to thank the Lord. Every occasion is a celebration. So, let’s celebrate God’s love today.



Clap your hands. Come on, 9 seconds to praise Jesus— 9 seconds to represent the 9 months that we’ve got left in 2022 to say, “Lord, You are good. Lord, you are faithful. And we praise you!





FLASHBACK!

MARCH 27, 2022

Talk

Talk 2:

We Have Dual Citizenship

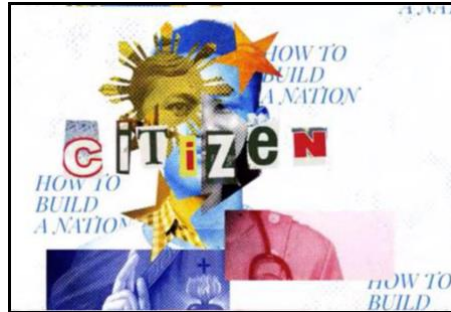
WE CONTINUE our beautiful series, *Citizen: How To Build a Nation*, with Talk 2: *We Have Dual Citizenship*. And I'm praying this will bless you, this will change you, and it will minister to you.

I invite you to say this prayer with me deliberately, as we come in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit...

Everybody, raise your hands and together with me, say this:

*Today, I receive all of God's love for me.
Today, I open myself to the unbounded, limitless,
overflowing abundance of God's universe.
Today, I open myself to God's blessings,
healing, and miracles.
Today, I open myself to God's Word
so that I become more like Jesus every day.*

Let's give honor and reverence
for God's Word, as we all sing:
*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.*
Holy Spirit, use this time to speak to us.



*Today, I proclaim that
I am God's beloved.
I am God's servant.
I am God's powerful champion.
And because I am blessed,
I am blessing the world.
In Jesus' Name. Amen.*





Two Questions...And More

We opened this series last Sunday (March 20, 2022) with a beautiful message where we said “God likes politics.”

It’s a little new message to think that, “Hey, God likes politics.”

He does. Why? Because God loves you. God is concerned about you.

Like Bro. Bo said, politics is one of the messiest, the dirtiest arenas in the world, and God is *concerned*. Because that’s where sin has infected and infested the life and heart of many. And what did we say? We’re called to what? We’re called to serve the Lord through politics. By discerning who the best candidate is for you. And looking at politics-- the issues of politics— through the lens of faith.

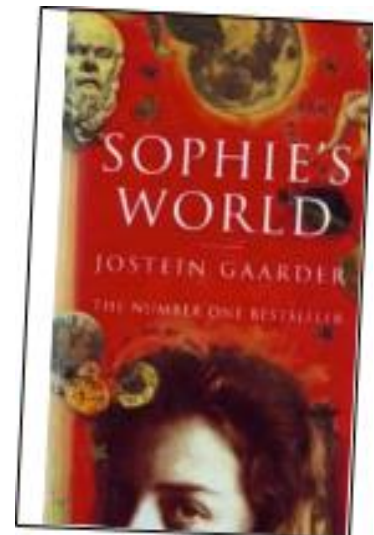
And so, we’re called to be restorers—not destroyers.

Today, we’re going to move forward in faith with this message.

But before I do that, may I share with you a personal story? I remember when I was in college, 10 years ago, I happened to pick up this book that was lying around in our home. I think it was my brother who was reading it. My brother is very intellectual.

So, the book was titled *Sophie’s World*. It’s very deep book. I mean, it’s a philosophical book. I wasn’t able to finish it. I couldn’t get past Chapter 5 without getting a migraine.

That’s how deep the book was. It’s a philosophical book that tries to answer two of Life’s most difficult questions: *Who am I? Where does the world come from?*





Not only did I not get answers to the questions —because I didn’t finish the book. But the book also opened a Pandora’s box of other existential questions. Like, I started asking: Why was I born into this family? Why am I a Villaraza, and not a Sanchez? I mean (Bo and Marowe) I could have called you Daddy and Mommy. I could have been brother of your sons Bene and Francis. I wasn’t a Sanchez—or a Lubaton, or a Barcelona. Why was I a Villaraza?

Have you ever asked those questions: Why were you born in *that* family? Why are *those* your parents?

Another question for me was: Why was I born a brown-skinned Filipino? Not the light-skinned Koreans, like Jin and Jungkook of the now popular boy band, BTS (Bangtan Sonyeondan). *At right*, Facebook photo of the BTS Facebook page, the band members, *from left*: Taehyung, a.k.a. V; Yoong, a.k.a. Suga; Jin; Jungkook; Namjoon, a.k.a. RM; Jimin; and Hoseok, a.k.a. Johpe.



Shout out to the BTS Army!

I just lost half of the crowd who are seniors!

Or another existential question: Why am I *gwapo* (handsome)?

Or maybe, the other serious question: Why am I delusional? Ha-ha!

Actually, I still don’t have the answers to all those existential questions, except for one thing—and I do know this for a fact. I know that God has a purpose. God’s got a purpose in everything that He creates, and in everything that He does.

That’s our big message for the day. Our message today is extra-special. It’s going to dig deep, deep down in your citizenship.

Here’s the message: *God made you Filipino for a purpose.*

And just in case you’re a foreigner, just change that little line of citizenship, that Filipino nationality, with your nationality. God made you Australian for a purpose. God made you a Chinese for a purpose. God made you Indian for a purpose. Because God always has a purpose.

Let's read Philippians Chapter 3:20:



Philippians is one of those epistles, or *letters*, that Paul wrote. He wrote a lot of letters to the different churches that he put up. He wrote a letter to the Romans, to the Corinthians, to the Thessalonians, to the Ephesians, right? There were so many that Paul wrote to: the Sharonians, the Vilmanians, the Noranians. Ha-ha. See, that's another existential question: Lord, why did you make me so corny?

Okay, back to Philippians 3:20. Quick trivia: This is the only time in any of the letters that Paul wrote when he actually used the word *citizen*. And it's to address the people of Philippi. Why is this? It's because the people of Philippi were special people. Philippi was a city where two kinds of people lived: the people who were actually residents; and those who transferred, moved into Philippi-- and most of them were retired Roman soldiers. When they were done with their tour of duty, their service to the Empire, the Emperor gave them land in Philippi. So, they were dual citizens. Not only were they residents of Rome, they were also residents of Philippi.



We have two friends in LOJ who have dual citizenship. My friend George Gabriel – he's now in New Zealand together with his family. He has dual citizenship. Not only is he a Filipino citizen. But he's also an American citizen. He was born in the United States.



The other friend we have who is also a dual citizen is Bro. Adrian Panganiban. Not only is Bro. Adrian a Filipino citizen. But he's also a senior citizen.

Shocking, right? You'd think he's 40.

When he shows his senior card to drug stores and restaurants, they don't believe him. They even ask for a Letter of Authority-- whatever that is.

All senior citizens, congratulations! You are dual citizens.

You Represent Heaven

So, what is Paul doing in this verse? Here, Paul is recognizing the duality of citizenship. And this is beautiful. This is something I believe we can all relate to-- during this time. Paul is saying to the Philippians, “You’re not only a citizen of Philippi, but you are also a citizen of Heaven.”

We *are* citizens of Heaven. And if you relate this to what’s happening today, you realize that, hey, we’ve got different political candidates that we’re supporting. We’ve got different political alliances that we want to belong to. We’ve got different political ideologies and beliefs that we adhere to.

But make no mistake. At the end of the day, we are all part of One Body—the Body of Christ.

News flash: When you get to Heaven-- and I pray that we all get to Heaven, one day—you’ll note that in Heaven, there will be no partisans. There will be no party lists. There will be no political alliances because in Heaven, all of us are one group of chorus and chorale praising the Lord, our One God. That’s what Heaven will look like. No politics in Heaven. There will be politicians, we pray. But there will be no politics there. God will reign supreme. God will be sovereign in that Kingdom. And we’re all going to be brothers and sisters.

So, I want you to look at that person beside you. You know, that person might be supporting a candidate different from your choice. But at the end of the day, that person belongs to God. And that person is loved by God.

God made you who you are for a purpose and that’s our message for today.

I want you to bow, close your eyes, if that’s what you want to do to experience God’s Presence in this place. Let’s pray:

Lord, thank You, that Your Presence is felt and it’s tangible. Even if the people on the other side of the screen are not here, Lord, I believe that You’re there with them too. And that’s more than enough. We pray that Your grace and Your wisdom fall upon us, Lord, and change us, and minister to us. Heal us, Lord, from our anger, our bitterness, our selfishness, and our pride—that blind us, Lord, to the work that You are doing.

Let love reign, Lord, during this time in our life, in this time of our nation. Let peace reign. Let understanding reign. And let Your Presence be felt. Minister to us, Jesus. Only You can change us. This is our prayer, in Jesus’ Name. Amen.



What Does Separation of Church and State Mean?

One of the difficult issues that a lot of people talk about today is the separation between Church and State.

That people are saying that the Church and the State are separated—you can't meddle with one and the other. That's why people are complaining about priests who use the pulpit to talk about politics, telling the priests, "You can't do that. There's a separation between Church and State."



But you know, for us to understand this issue, let's go back when this started. Let's go all the way back to the 18th century—the time the separation between Church and State was promulgated as part of our Constitution. But, hey, only in the 16th century—two centuries before—the Spaniards came, right? They colonized us, and they introduced Catholicism which became our State religion. That's why, you know, the country is predominantly Catholic. Although now, we've got a lot of other religions.

But back in the 16th century, there was no separation between Church and State—they were one and the same. They were united.

Because, No. 1: The State could dictate to the Church, for example, who to put up as Bishop, who to nominate as Church leader, or maybe they could even tell where to build churches. That's how they did it, right?

And then, on the other spectrum, the Church also shared equal power with the State. Do you remember that? If you studied the life of Jose Rizal and the books that he wrote—you'll note how the Spanish friars had equal power as that of the Gobernador General. That's where the problem actually started. Because the spiritual leaders—some of them—they were the ones who committed abuse, maltreatment of the Filipinos whom they called *indios*. You remember your history?

And so, the Filipinos started retaliating. They started fighting back. And it was in 1898 that they drafted a Constitution that made the separation of Church and State official. Yes, we might have lost Catholicism as our State religion—that's why we've got a lot of other different religions now. But actually, the separation between Church and State was a good thing. Why?

Because now the State cannot control what the Church can teach and preach. That's why, sometimes, every so often, you see priests taking a stand about what is good, what is right, what is evil. You know, they fight against evil. And some people complain about this.



*The State's role
is to elect officials.
The Church's role
is to educate consciences.*

Here's the thing: You know, like everything else in life, you need balance. So, if there is a priest or a spiritual leader who talks about politics non-stop, guess what—that's problematic.

Because politics may be important, especially in our season now—but we all know it's not the only thing that we need. If a priest or a preacher would come here and talk about *politics*, about *nation*... make no mistake—you've got other needs to feed your soul, right? Forgiveness, belief, faith, hope, love.

That's why here at The Feast, we try our best to build a structure of different themes and topics—sometimes we talk about money, sometimes we talk about relationships, sometimes we talk about habits. Why? Because everything needs to be balanced.

Let me go back to the separation of Church and State. That's why now, you've got people rising up to take a stand—spiritual leaders banding together and telling you, “This is whom you vote for. This is what you need to vote for.”

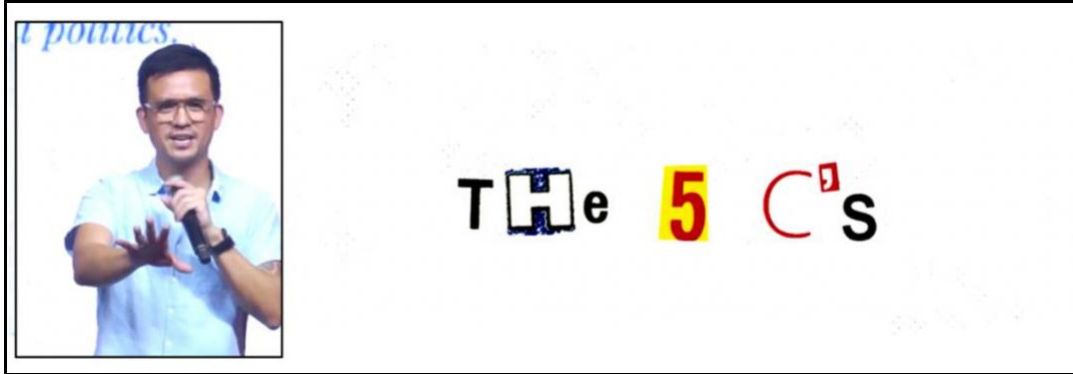
But let me clarify: The separation between Church and State is not about what the Church *cannot* do. But it's about what the *State* cannot do. And one of the things that the State cannot do is to control what the priests will teach us. What our spiritual leaders will teach us. And one which, I believe, as a Church we should be teaching people is voters' education. It's not necessarily to endorse a candidate but it's to teach voters' education.

Let me put it this way: *If the State's role is to elect officials, the role of the Church is to educate consciences.* It's to help you, educate, deep within, what is God trying to teach us to discern. That's why you notice, there are a lot of Bishops over the past few decades, who've been encouraging people to go through what they call *circles of discernment*—as a community, as a family, as a small group. You know, come together, talk about it, look at the qualifications of each person. Spiritually, you pray, you discern.

*Don't forget
local politics.*

But a very practical tip: Don't forget local politics. I know that every election, all eyes are always on the national level—Who am I going to choose as president, vice president, senator. Have you chosen your Magic 12? Your candidate? But that's the only thing that sometimes we focus on.

Listen to this: No matter how great your President is, no matter how good your leader is on top, if you've got a bad Mayor, you still got problems, right? Because the top leaders don't have the solutions to the immediate problems of your community. So, please put the focus also on your LGUs, on your local politics. Pray and discern the leaders who God needs to put in that place.



Very quick, I'm going to teach you 5 Cs of what we're learning from the Church to guide us in choosing national and local officials. We've given you some already.

Okay, we're going to learn the 5 Cs of qualifications of what we need to look for in every leader, in every candidate who is applying to be our leader.



Conscience is very powerful—it's the only thing that separates you between the animals out there, between the beasts out there. And how do you find somebody who's got a good conscience? Somebody who's got a moral compass?

You ask, "How do you know, Bro. Audee, if these persons look like they've got a moral compass? They post about God all the time. I don't know."

Check their platform. Are their platforms showing that they've got a moral compass? Are they pro-Life? Are they pro-poor? Are they pro-dignity?

And here's the thing: You will not find a candidate who will best fit *all* of your non-negotiable standards. There's no such thing. Because only Jesus would fit your standards.

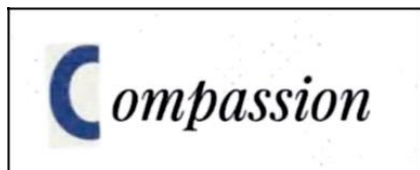
But here's what you need to do: You look for candidates that fit the closest to what you adhere to. Because if those persons are closer to the principles you believe in, it is easy to pray for them... If you compare them to somebody who is far away from the principles that you hold dear to your heart, it's harder to convince others to vote for them. If, for instance, you're pro-poor, but that candidate is pro-rich, how are you going to convince others to choose your candidate—there's a gap right? Or, if you are pro-Life and the person is pro-non-Life, or pro-Death—is there such a thing?

So, you look for those who are closest to your principles. Because you can pray for them.



May I ask you this question: Would you ride an airplane if you know that the pilot is funny and tall, and comes from a good family background—but did not pass the pilot exam? Would you ride that airplane? Unless you want to go to Heaven right away, then you'd ride that plane.

In the same way, that applies to what's happening in our country. Would you choose a candidate you know is not equipped to navigate our country, you know, to a better path. Look at the candidates' past achievements. Look at what they had done. You look at their track record. That's how you find *competence*. We want somebody who has experience to navigate where we want to go.



We always say that Jesus is a Man of Mercy, a Man of Compassion. We want leader a who is compassionate. Candidates who have the poor in their heart. Not somebody who'd just give a dole-out-- because it's election season. But somebody who has, actually, a long-term platform for the cause of the poor, alleviate their suffering. Somebody who is compassionate like Jesus.



Who are the candidates' advisors? Are they people of integrity? Are they beholden to powerful families? Check also the platform of their political party. Are they just huge promises or actual concrete programs?

Companionship is important. It's another way of saying *friendship*. I said this last week—that you can tell an awful lot about persons based on the company they keep. Are there people surrounding these candidates that you know are influential, and that the candidates would be indebted to? That's dangerous. Because they'd start listening to the influential company and not listen to, you know, the Holy Spirit—or good influences. So, look at the people they hang around with.



Do they have Political Will? It's easy to make grand plans-- but will they be able to execute those plans? Will they have the strength to stick to their principles?



Commitment is good. Because it's going to be a relationship. And make no mistake: this is a six-year relationship with your leader. Some of you don't even last in a relationship for a year, if you know that the other person lacks commitment, right? This is a six-year relationship with somebody. So, choose well.

Choose somebody who's got a strong political will. Somebody who has the will to follow through in achieving the goals. Not somebody who will say just the nicest things, or the most beautiful things to get your vote. But you know that this person has the political will to take us all the way to six years of growth, six years of development, six years of goodness, and good governance.

I want to end with this: Paul has been teaching us that he's recognizing the duality of citizenship and he is saying we are citizens of Heaven. Yes, he's saying: You might have a different political background, a different ideology; You might even support a difficult, a different candidate and be loyal to that candidate; But you know, at the end of the day, we never forget where our loyalty should lie in.

Paul says that we are not citizens just of this country. We are citizens not just of Philippi. But we're citizens of the world. And so, yes, pray. Pray about the misinformation, the violence, the anger, the bitterness, the lack of love that's bombarding us everywhere. But also pray for the actual missiles bombing Ukraine. Also, pray for those who are going hungry right now. Because we're citizens of the world.

But ultimately, we're citizens of Heaven. No matter what happens, at the end of this election, no matter who sits in that position, in the highest position, no matter who gets elected, make no mistake, my dear friends, God still has His plan. God is still sovereign. The last time I checked, God is still working for the good of all those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. God is still for the good. And God will fight for the good.

During this election season, a lot of people will make promises to you...

But we all know the truth. We're all broken. There's only One Person who will promise and will deliver that promise. And His name is Jesus. And so, we trust Jesus. We thank Jesus. We walk with Jesus. There is a purpose God made you who you are-- why He planted you in that family, why He planted you in that organization or company. And I pray that you get to discover that.



IMAGINE if God made you *not* a Filipino.

Imagine if you were born in Japan, with a Japanese family. Wouldn't that be cool? You'd be bowing a lot—instead of shaking hands. You'd be eating sushi every day. Woo! You'd be having morning calisthenics in your office every day.

Or imagine if you were born in Switzerland. You would be right now 6'2", blond hair, blue eyes.

But no. You were born a Filipino. Brown, kind, funny, beautiful, smart, amazing. God made you Filipino for a purpose. What purpose?

It's this purpose: God made you His Filipino agent of transformation. That's what He did.

*You are
God's Filipino
agent of
transformation.*

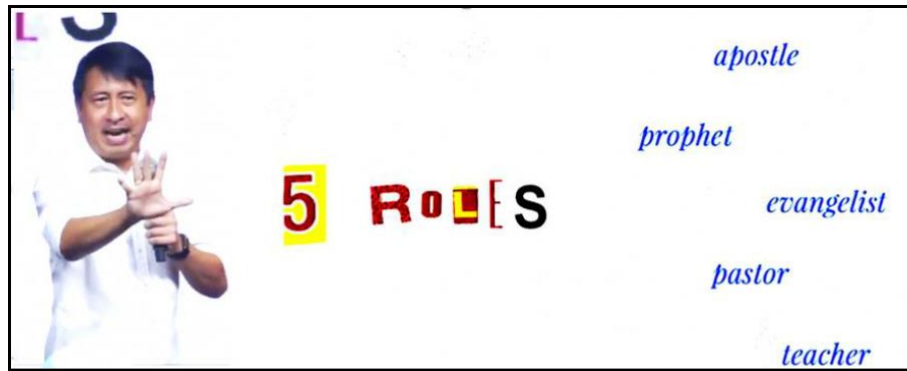
Can you put your hand on your chest and say, "I'm God's Filipino."

One more time, just declare who owns you, who created you, and the purpose that He has for you.

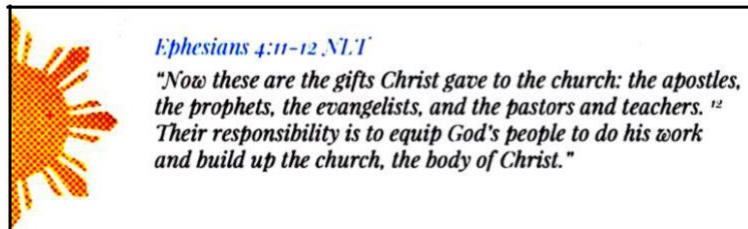
Say this with me again:



So, how can we transform the world? God has callings for you. He has a special gift that He gave you. And He wants you to use that gift so that you can transform this world, and transform this country. What Jesus did was He gave special roles to different people.



Read with me
Ephesians 4:11-12:



So, the five roles are: apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher.

Now, I want you to think about this very carefully. Out of all these five, I think the most confusing would be the word *prophet*. Because in almost all cultures in the world, the word *prophet* means somebody who can predict the future. In almost all cultures, that's what it means—a Nostradamus, a Madam Auring. But in the Bible, it's different. The word *prophet* does not mean somebody who can predict the future. The word *prophet* in the Bible is somebody who will speak about current events—but from a cosmic perspective.

Prophet = Speak about current events from a cosmic perspective

So, for example, there are a lot of authors and preachers who will look at the book of *Revelations* and they will say this is about this guy that's happening in Russia, and this is about what's happening in Iraq, and this is what's happening in the United Nations... And I say, *No*.

The author of the book of *Revelations* is talking about the current events in the *First Century*. But he was speaking about it from a cosmic perspective.

Now, why am I saying all that? “Bro. Bo, what is *prophet*, really in the Bible?”

He's like the covenant watchdog.

Prophet = Covenant Watchdogs

He's like the guy who says,
“You've made a covenant with God and I'm going to watch you. I'm going to tell you if you do not do your covenant...”

What Prophets Do



Think of the prophet Nathan who confronted King David. He was really good-- Nathan.

You know, if he told David, “David, you committed adultery and you committed murder...”

He didn’t do it that way.

He said, “King David, let me tell you a story...”

Once upon a time, there was this rich man who had a huge flock of sheep and goat. And then some guests came and he wanted to entertain them and feed them. But instead of getting one sheep from his own flock, from his own backyard, he goes to his neighbor, a poor guy, with only one lamb. And he grabs that lamb and feeds his guests.

King David was so angry, he said, “I am going to punish that guy!”

Then the prophet-- that’s why prophets, covenant watchdogs—tells King David, “You are that guy. You got Bathsheba from Uriah. You killed him. You committed adultery.”



Think of John the Baptist. That’s another prophet. He goes to King Herod. And what does he say?

He says, “You’re committing adultery.”

What does King Herod do? Chops off his head.

That’s what prophets do. They take stands and they suffer the consequences.

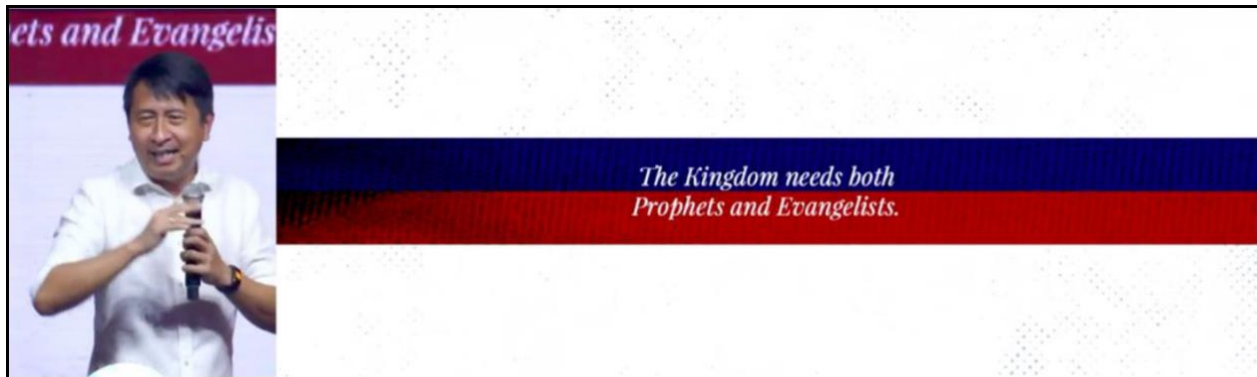
Now, I want you to know that in the Kingdom of God, you need both prophets *and* evangelists.

“Bro. Bo, you’ve explained what prophet is, you did not explain what’s an *evangelist*.”

What is an evangelist?

An evangelist is someone who welcomes sinners. And actually parties with them. So, they’re very, very different from the prophets.

The Kingdom of God needs both prophets and evangelists. But that’s where the conflict comes in. The conflict in community, the conflict in churches. It’s when prophets want everyone to be prophets. And it’s when evangelists want everyone to be evangelists. When, in fact, God gave and distributed specific calls and specific gifts to everyone.



Conflict arises when the prophet tells the evangelist and the apostle, and the teacher, and the pastor, “You’re a coward. You have no spine.

Wala kang tindig. Take a stand. Masama na—there is evil. You’ve got to name evil. Pa-love the sinner, love the sinner ka pa.”

And then the evangelist says to the prophet, “*Bakit ka laging galit? Do not bash people. Di ba ang ebanghelyo is about love?*”

So, you have a conflict between the prophet and the evangelist— not realizing God gave specific gifts and calls to different people and that the Kingdom of God needs both. You need both.



There are bishops who are prophets. From the pulpit, they will declare their stand—and it stings, there’s a solid punch. But how many of you also understand that not all bishops do that? There are bishops who actually like dialogue. And why? Again, you need both.

Be True to Your Call

I was 12 years old when I came to know Jesus. I started preaching and serving God when I was 13. We started the Light of Jesus, this Community, when I was 14.

I led LOJ for 39 years. And I want you to know that in all those *39 years, I envied prophets*. When I look at a prophet, I say to myself, “*Oo nga*. There’s something wrong with me. *Ang tapang niya, o. Tapang talaga*—He is so brave.”

You know, for 39 years of the Light of Jesus Community, not once did we ever come out with a statement about a national issue. *Yung mga community—Couples for Christ, Ligaya (ng Panginoon) nagbibigay ng*—giving-- statement, written down, declarative: “This is what we stand for...”

For 39 years, we did not. And when people ask me, “Bro. Bo, *parang tayo lang ang tahimik*—we are the only ones silent. We need to say what we believe in about this issue, that issue.” And my answer is this: I tell them, “*Ah, nagsalita na yung Simbahan, e--* the Church spoke out already. ‘*Yun na lang--* let that be our statement. We don’t need to re-write it.”

So, I would wiggle my way out of it. You know, after 40-plus years of leadership, I’ve come to realize this-- *Dati, hindi ko tinatanggap-- ngayon tinatanggap ko na*: “I’m probably an apostle-- because I pioneered the movement. I’m an evangelist for the unchurched. I’m a pastor to the flock. I’m a teacher—obvious *ba?*—to the spiritually hungry. But I’ve come to accept I’m not a prophet. I’m not. Prophets take stands. I’d rather that we take a walk and we talk. That’s just me. My personality and my ability and competence. Am I wrong? No. Is the prophet wrong for taking stands? No. We both need prophets and evangelists in the body of Christ.

Recently, the leaders of the LOJ Community—I stepped down, by the way, two and a half years ago-- the top leaders of the Community asked me, “Bro. Bo, we want to write a statement about the elections. Is that okay?”

I said, “I’m not the leader anymore. This is your call. If you believe this is what God wants you to do, you do it.”

And what they did was amazing. They listened as well as they could to all the leaders—national leaders, provincial leaders, Metro Manila leaders, international Feast leaders. They just asked them, “You know, tell us what you would want us to write in that statement.” And after listening to everybody, they wrote a beautiful statement. I just want you to know that I’m happy I’m no longer the leader—because there are better leaders now leading the Community.



How I Serve God Through Politics

The fact remains: people would compare, “Bro. Bo, *buti pa yung ibang Community, nag-endorse nang candidates nila. Kayo hindi. Parang masyadong vague. Mas Mabuti sila*—The other communities are better than us. They endorse a candidate. We don’t. We are so vague. They are better.”

I smile and say, “Welcome to the Catholic Church. Welcome to the Kingdom of God. *Palagay ko yung community na ‘yun, maraming propeta*—I surmise that community has many prophets. Here, in our Community, there are many evangelists.”

That’s just it. But we all serve the King.

By the way, people also ask me this question: “Bro. Bo, *bakit walang politics sa social media mo*—why don’t you have politics on your social media? You don’t post anything about politics.”

Again, I explain, “If I post something on politics on social media, what I notice is that it does not invite conversation.

It invites a reaction. If I invite politics on my social media, what happens is I tell you what I think. I don’t hear what you think. And as someone who is an evangelist, I don’t like that. I want conversation.

And so, what I do is, anywhere I go, I talk to the waiter, I talk to the driver, I talk to the neighbor, and I ask them, “*Sino iboboto mo... Bakit naman*—Who are you voting for. Why?”

Then, we share. And we have a conversation. Even if, at the end, we still disagree, it’s okay. You know why? In the end, *magkaibigan kami*—we are still friends. And that is somebody who is an evangelist.

And sometimes what we need to do is really ask ourselves, “What gift did God give me? What calling did God give me?” And say, “I’m going to respond to that. This is what I need to do.”





In this election season, I want you to respect each other’s political choices. But I also want you to respect each person’s calling from God. You are a Filipino citizen. Raise your hand if you are. You also are a Kingdom citizen. Raise your hand if you are.



As a Filipino citizen, you have to obey, you have to follow your President. Yes or no? Yes. Does your President know you? No, I don’t think so. For most of us—the President does not know me.

You are a Filipino citizen but you are a citizen of the Kingdom and the King of this Kingdom knows you. He does not only know you, He loves you. And He does not only love you, He died for you. And today, I want you to worship—worship is recognizing your loyalties. At the end of the day, you are loyal to the King. And so, I want you to worship Him. And worship is not just singing a bunch of songs. Worship is obedience. Worship is loyalty. Worship is surrender. Worship is coming before God, coming before the King of the Kingdom and saying, “Reporting for duty.” But you say it with a smile—because this King loves you and this King is committed to you, and this King, yes, he has all the five qualities that Audee was talking about when you choose a leader.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Lift your hands, and if this is comfortable posture for you, and just say this with all your heart:

My Jesus, my King, I am your follower and I submit my life to you. You made me Filipino for a purpose. You gave me gifts for a purpose. You called me, gave me a specific call, for a purpose.

Jesus, I submit my life to you. Thank You for loving me.”

Take this moment just to bask in the King’s love. Take this moment just to surrender yourself to the love that this King has for you. Get lost in that love. Immerse yourself in that love. And then, worship Him. Amen.



Mercy Ministries

HIS MERCY NEVER CEASES!

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness, Oh Lord!*

--Lamentations 3:22-23

PAG-ASA NG PAMILYA

Back to School as COVID Cases Dwindle



THIS file photo shows Bro. Bo Sanchez meeting with beneficiaries of our Pag-asa ng Pamilya Scholarship Foundation, one of our Light of Jesus Mercy Ministries, way back in 2013, long before we heard about

the deadly Coronavirus Disease (COVID). Such face-to-face meeting was not possible as the government imposed lockdowns or quarantines to prevent the spread of the disease --which counts a record of 3.6 million cumulative cases in the Philippines since the COVID Pandemic, starting in January 2020.

Now, the Good News: Following the government's relentless Vaccination Drive to make COVID history, the latest report, as we are making this issue of *The Feast Family*, is that the number of COVID cases is down to 246!

Government has eased the level of Quarantine Alerts. As of this writing, Metro Manila is under Alert Level 1, as well as other key areas in the country. Alert

Level 1 means full capacity is allowed in establishments and public transportation. Even some schools are preparing to open come Back-to-School season in September 2022. Actually, some schools already opened as early as December 2021.

The Better News

The better news is scholars of our Pag-asa ng Pamilya Scholarship Foundation continue to receive Pag-asa's tuition assistance.



As Bro. Hermie Morelos, chairman of the Light of Jesus Mercy Ministry pointed out during the Thanksgiving Gathering for donors and supporters mounted by the Ministry last September 2021, whether it's school-at-home, or *live*, face-to-face schooling, our scholars are able to continue their studies as they continue to receive financial assistance from Pag-asa ng Pamilya.



As of recent count, Pag-asa has 104 active scholars—18 in the Elementary level, 40 in high school, and 46 in college. Bro. Samuel Uy, president of Pagasa ng Pamilya Scholarship Foundation, the Ministry has well coped with the challenges of the COVID Pandemic. He said that Pag-asa has added P4,000 allowance for each scholar.



Beneficiaries are more than grateful.

Like Sister Marifi of the Dominican Sisters. She relates that she used to be a staff of Bro. Rey Ortega (*right*), founder of Pag-asa, at the Jeremiah Foundation for abused minor girls, also our Mercy Ministry founded by

Bro. Rey. Sister Marifi said Bro. Rey helped her receive a Pag-asa scholarship, easing the burden of her congregation for looking for donations for the sisters' schooling.



Recalls Sis. Jeann Marigondon, senior high school teacher from Antipolo:

In 2014, I met Bro. Rey Ortega who shared with me his passion for serving out-of-school youths.

Bro. Rey had a soft heart for the Dumagats (an ethnic group in Luzon) and he helped four Dumagat children to receive Pag-asa scholarships and thus they were able to graduate.

One of them now has a job in Benguet. The other three took up Education, passed the Licensure Examination for Teachers, and they are now teaching in public schools.

I am deeply grateful that our students received the Pag-asa grant and they are now a big help to their respective families. Bro. Rey already passed away. But Pag-asa has continued to support our scholars.



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
(Metro Manila Only) Cash or Checks Address Checks to Shepherds Voice Radio and Television Foundation and call Joy at (+632) 725 -9999 loc 112 or text (+63) 922-828-9890 and we'll pick them up from your home or office.
3. Mail 12 Post-Dated Checks to Our Office
For US and CANADA: Address Checks to Kerygma Family,
848 Rainbow Blvd # 1937, Las Vegas, NV 89107
For Other Countries/Philippines: Address Check to Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation and mail (registered mail) to Shepherds Voice, 60 Chicago St., Cubao, Quezon City, Philippines 1109
4. Directly Deposit to Our Bank Accounts. Deposit to Shepherds Voice Account in any branch of these banks:
Account name: Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation
BPI: Savings Account no: 0123-4849-67 Cubao Aurora Branch
Banco de Oro Savings Account no: 3970019804 General Araneta, Cubao Branch
Banco de Oro - Savings Account no. 160506123 SM Cubao Branch
PNB - Current Account no. 371157500015 SSS branch Metrobank-Savings Account no. 265-3-26509112-2 e Rodriguez Branch Allied Bank Savings Account no. 3160-12345-1 E Rodriguez Branch Union Bank Savings Account no. 00-206-000940-1 Tektite Branch

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
Executive Director**
Randy Borromeo

Contributors
The Feast Builders

Finance Officer
Rowena Cequeña

Publication Consultant
Chelle Crisanto



Human Resources Manager
Erika Ventura




Shepherd's Voice
Radio and TV Foundation Inc.



For Feast locations,
go to
www.feast.ph
or
download The Feast app

 on  GET IT ON
Google Play

 Download on the
App Store

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