



NEWSLETTER
March 19, 2023



God Loves Parties

SOME people think God is a party-pooper. A Celestial Kill Joy that frowns when people laugh and frolic and play.

But the picture of God we get from *Leviticus* is very different. In this priestly book, God wants His people to have not just one party, or two parties, or three parties a year, but seven huge parties throughout the year.

Today, we're going to unbox these festivals as described in *Leviticus*. They're absolutely fascinating. Beneath these festivals, we discover the *God who loves parties*. Through these festivals, *God weaved a rhythm of rejoicing, rest, and recommitment* into the life of His people.

Have a happy Feast today!

May your dreams come true

Bo Sanchez

WELCOME
to *Closer Talk 9:*
God Loves Parties



Truth-- Or Consequence?



WE played the game *Truth-- Or Consequence?* when we were younger. You know, with a group of players, you were asked: Is Art your crush? You didn't tell the truth. But they had a way of finding out you're telling a lie that Art is not your crush. And you suffered the consequence-- you had to hug, kiss Art in front of everybody!

In his Homily at Mass last Feast, March 12, Fr. Paolo Asprer pointed out not a few still do Truth-- Or Consequence. Not the game, *page 3.*



Our founder, Bro. Bo Sanchez, points out the truth: God, though He has rules of consequences when we lie, He is not a Celestial Kill Joy. Proof in Talk 9 of our Feast talk series, *Closer*, titled *God Loves Parties*. Intro on *page 1.*

Yes, we don't have to be afraid of God's Rules-- especially His Holiness Laws. These laws may be difficult to follow, but Bro. Bo and Dr. Ryan Capitulo actually already revealed the truth last Feast Sunday -- why our *Closer* Talk 8 is titled *Love Rules*. *Flashback* starts on *page 15.*

Bro. Didoy Lubaton, welcoming us to our Sunday Feast, announced we're *finally* having a *live* Lenten Retreat capped with the Grand Easter Feast. Now, you don't want to miss this retreat-- if you really want to know the truth about Jesus' Sacrifice on the Cross-- and the consequence of forgetting about His greatest gift to mankind, *page 9.*

In our *Mercy Ministries* section, we continue our series on our Anawim Home for Abandoned Elderly. We present some of our donors, they who go out of their way to support our lolos and lolas-- because they know well the truth about giving those in need the chance to live with dignity, *pages 27-29.*

Truth—or Consequence? Play the game again?



All for God's Glory,

Randy Borromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director

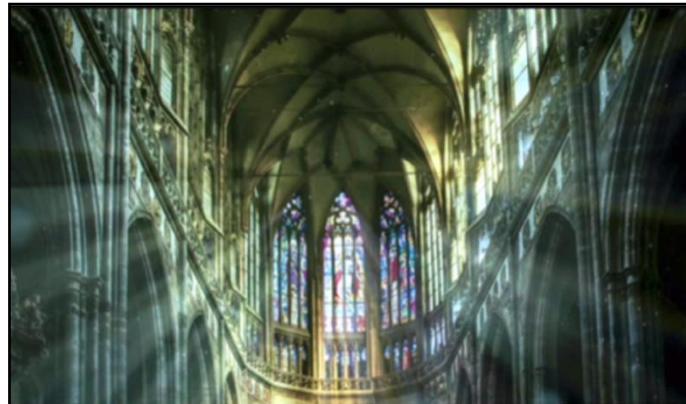




FLASHBACK!

MARCH 12, 2023

Holy Mass



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

FR. PAOLO ASPRER
on the Gospel: John 4:5-42

Excerpts...

GOOD MORNING, sisters and brothers in Christ! Peace and blessing to everyone, and a blessed Third Sunday of Lent.

Are you a person who always speaks and lives by the truth? Yes, or no?
In all circumstances, are you a trustworthy, a truthful person?

A Facebook meme said, “*Sa panahon ngayon, tanghali na lamang ang tapat.*—
Nowadays, only noontime is on time.”

You know, one priest was surprised about the confession of one millennial.

The millennial said, “Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned. Here are my sins:
I said 3 white lies, 2 red lies, 1 one black lie.”

So, the priest was like, “Oh my, even sins now have color spectrum, color coding-- choose your color. My dear friends, truth is truth even though no one believes in the truth. A lie is a lie even if everyone believes in that lie.

I remember a Korean novela where the girl said to the guy, “Honey, I would rather be slapped by the naked truth rather than be kissed by your sweet lies.”

Grabe, ang lalim ng hugot.—Wow, so profound!

Worship in Spirit and in Truth

My dear friends in Christ, our Gospel reading today invites us to worship in spirit and in truth.

Worship is not just simply a part of our schedule. Worship is not just simply a part of our Christian life. It *is* our Christian life-- because when we worship, we give back to God the breath that He owns. And when we do not worship God, we begin worshipping ourselves-- and that is the beginning of our despair, destruction, and death.

Worship in spirit and in truth. Paano nga ba ang pagsamba mula sa puso? – How do we worship from the heart?

I remember my teacher said, “We have to worship the Lord hindi lamang sa nguso kundi sa puso.—We must worship the Lord not only with our lips but also with our heart.”

We worship from our heart. Worship comes from within us. It is not just simply mechanical. It is not just simply formalistic. True worship is not just simply confined in a particular place-- because we have the spirit of God.

According to the Second Reading, we can worship in spirit and in truth. *Pagsamba mula sa puso at hindi lamang mula sa nguso.*

And, of course, we know that there are times in our life that it is hard for us to worship. We can find no words in our worship sapagkat napakabigat ng ating pinagdaraan—because we have heavy burdens —trials, tribulations, kaliwa’t kanang crises, left and right crises.

The Second Reading affirms that when we can no longer worship, we can no longer pray. It is the Spirit of God who groans in us, who prays in us, who prays for us.

So, worship has deeper meaning-- especially in moments of trials.



Reading II: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

¹Brothers and sisters: Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,²through whom we have gained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God.⁵And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

⁶For Christ, while we were still helpless, died at the appointed time for the ungodly.⁷Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die.⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.



What Satisfies Our Thirst and Hunger

We sometimes say, “*Father, ang hirap magworship. Ang hirap magdasal.* – It’s so hard to worship, so hard to pray, especially when I am in pain.”

But my dear Feasters, every time we are in pain and we are still worshipping, that is the truest form of worship-- because it is already the Spirit who groans and worships in us.

The First Reading and the Gospel reading tells us that when we are open to that challenge of worshipping in spirit and in truth, then we are like recipients of a living water.

Our worship is like a living water. It really fulfills our thirst, our hunger for deeper love, for communion, for friendship.

Lahat naman tayong meron tayong uhaw at gutom—We all suffer thirst and hunger. And the only One who can really satisfy the deep longings and thirst and hunger of the human heart for love, for salvation, for hope, for healing—is the One who created it. God Himself.

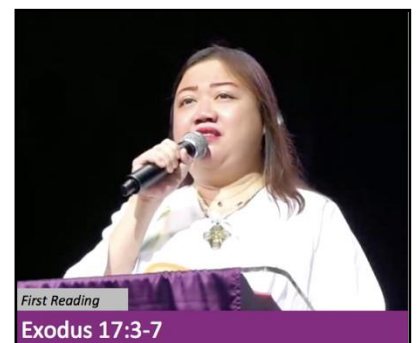
Worship in spirit and in truth. Truth is not just simply for truth itself. Truth is not simply the end of it all. We speak the truth; we live the truth because we love. *Ang tunay na pagmamahal at pag-ibig, at paglilingkod, ay nakabase at nakabatay sa katotohanan.—True love and true service are based on truth.* Love can only rejoice in the spirit of truth.

Kapag mahal natin ang isang tao, inilalapit natin siya sa katotohanan, inilalapit natin siya sa Diyos.—When we love someone, we lead him to the truth, we lead him to God.

Reading I: Exodus 17:3-7

³In those days, in their thirst for water, the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “Why did you ever make us leave Egypt? Was it just to have us die here of thirst with our children and our livestock?” ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? a little more and they will stone me!” ⁵The LORD answered Moses, “Go over there in front of the people, along with some of the elders of Israel, holding in your hand, as you go, the staff with which you struck the river.

⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock in Horeb. Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink.” This Moses did, in the presence of the elders of Israel. ⁷The place was called Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled there and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD in our midst or not?”





Three Important Points

My dear friends, three important points:

1. God's Truth Humbles Us

Humility comes from the root word *humus*—in Tagalog, *lupa*.

One time, I saw a car sticker that says, “No matter how big your heart is, no matter how hefty your savings account is, no matter how flashy the car you are driving, our graves will always be of the same size.” *Babalik at babalik tayo sa lupa... We will always go back to humus.*

You know, with this COVID-19 Pandemic, we are reminded about the fragility of life.

Life is fragile, death is sure, tomorrow is not promised, jobs are temporary.

What we take so much pride in --military power, technology, wealth—those are all nothing with the onslaught of COVID-19 Pandemic.

So, God's truth indeed reminds us that we are all nothing, that outside the mercy, and grace, and compassion of God, we are nobody. Eyes on Heaven, feet on the ground—because everything is grace, everything is gift.

2. God's Truth Disturbs Us

The truth coming from God does not only comfort and console us, but the real truth coming from God disturbs us, confronts us, challenges us.

You know, in the seminary, there is this frame that says, “Conscience is God's built-in warning system.”

Be very happy when your conscience hurts you, or disturbs you, and be very weary--*matakot ka kapag hindi ka na binabagabag ng iyong konsensya*, kasi ibig sabihin ay best friend na natin si Taning.—Be afraid when your conscience no longer bothers you—because it means your best friend is already Satan.

We say *truth sets us free*, but first, truth will make life difficult. *Napakasarap naman talagang mamuhay sa katotohanan. It's great to live in the truth.*

We say that a clear conscience is the best pillow. But we know how God's truth is sometimes difficult, is sometimes painful, is sometimes ugly. The truth is inconvenient, as it is often said.

Why? Because the truth indeed humbles us, it exposes our motives, it points our faults, it invites us to change. And we know, change doesn't happen overnight.



3. God's Truth Liberates Us

Again, no matter how painful God's truth is, certainly it would liberate us.

The problem is, when we are already fooling ourselves, we see light as dark and dark as light. We are already believing in our own lies. So, we lose our sanity. We lose our self-respect when we believe in our own lies.

My dear friends, the truth coming from God, indeed, it would truly hurt us. It would truly hurt our heart. But eventually, it would heal, it would renew our soul.

Usually, we ask ourselves, "Am I happy?"

Are you happy, Feasters? Are you contented? Are you successful?

My dear friends, those are important questions of life.

But the real and more important question of life is not just simply, "Am I happy?" But "Am I free? *Malaya ba 'ko? Malaya ba 'kong mabuhay sa liwanag ng katotohanan na nagmumula sa Diyos?—Am I free to live under the light of truth that comes from God?*

Not just simply, "Am I happy?" But "Am I free?"



A Season of Generosity

In our Homily this morning, we reflected on the importance of Worship. Real Worship does not only lead us upward and inward. Real Worship indeed directs us outward and forward.

My dear friends, the Lenten season is a season of generosity. So, indeed, I would like to invite you to support all the Ministries of the Light of Jesus Family, The Feast Community, in their mission for the children, the missionaries, the elderly... Please support them.

In the same manner, I would like also to invite you to our Community, the Society of St. Paul's Lenten Benefit Recollection in Makati on March 25. I invite you to this pre-Holy Week Seven Last Words Recollection for a Cause featuring St. Paul priests and brothers and Feasters. (Proceeds will support St. Paul's online ministries and programs).

So, Maraming Maraming. Salamat for all your prayers and support.



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Listening and Speaking with the Heart

A Pre-Holy Week Recollection for a Cause with the 7 Last Words

FEATURED SPEAKERS

- Fr. Angelo Piolo Agpoc, SSP Director, ST PAULS' Community
- Fr. Armand Tangi, SSP Author and Visual Artist
- Bro. Jon Silan FEAST, Feaster, FEAST
- Vanya Custor Artist and Youth Ministry
- Fr. Edward Dantis, SSP Artist and Composer
- Japetcham Lanon Worship, Leader and Lay Servant
- Fr. Jason Laguerta Director, CPWA
- Fr. Bong Bayaras Administrator, Parish, Cathedral

25 MAR Saturday, 2-5 PM, Alberione Hall, Society of St. Paul, 770B, St. Paul Road, San Antonio Village, Makati City.

REGISTER NOW | TICKET: P500.00

All proceeds will help support ST PAULS' online ministries and programs.
FOR MORE INFORMATION: MS. JOYCE CHAMORRO AT 8895 3716 OR 09175862957



EVERYBODY, give the Lord a big, big hand. Praise the Lord for He is good!
So many blessings to be grateful for.

First and foremost, I am grateful that *you* are here. I want to welcome you home to our Feast Bay Area-- where you are loved.

Can you be that loving person? Welcome the people around you with a smile...
Everybody say, "Welcome home!"

If it's your first time here, Hi! Welcome home!



I'm happy that we're all here together.

Fr. Paolo Asprer led us to a beautiful Mass celebration. We love Feast priests. We support our Feast priests.

Let's also applaud our Liturgy team.

Live Holy Week Retreat

It's time to announce to you a beautiful celebration happening this Lenten season.

We are finally going to have a *live* Holy Week Retreat. It's happening on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at the Aliw Theater. This is a powerful time. What we're going to do is transform this place into a form of Transfiguration Garden. It is so exciting.

And then we have a Grand Easter Feast come Sunday, April 9. We're going to be at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) Reception Hall.

A promotional poster for 'The Garden' Holy Week Retreat and Easter Feast. The title 'THE GARDEN' is written in large, green, serif letters, with various colorful flowers and leaves integrated into the text. Below the title, it says 'WALK IN HIS PRESENCE'. To the right, a green box contains the text 'SAVE THE DATES'. Below this, the dates and locations for the Holy Week Retreat (April 6 & 7, Holy Thursday and Good Friday, 9am-12nn, Aliw Theater) and the Grand Easter Feast (April 9, Sunday, 9am-12nn, PICC Reception Hall) are listed. The FEAST logo is in the bottom right corner.

FEAST BAY AREA HOLY WEEK RETREAT AND EASTER FEAST

THE GARDEN

WALK IN HIS PRESENCE

SAVE THE DATES

Holy Week Retreat
April 6 & 7, Holy Thursday and Good Friday
9am-12nn, Aliw Theater

Grand Easter Feast
April 9, Sunday, 9am-12nn
PICC Reception Hall

FEAST

Hebrews 10:23-25 says, “*Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep His promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. Let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another especially now that the day of His return is drawing near.*”

I encourage you, my dear Family, even those who are watching online, let us not neglect our coming together in Christ Jesus. We are so grateful.

We haven't had this *live* Holy Week Retreat for a couple of years. Last year, we did it only online.

But now we're stepping out in faith. *Kaya na natin!*—We can already do this. We, your servant leaders, have set this-- we owe it to our Family. Let's step out in faith that people will come, that people will give, that people will build this home with us.

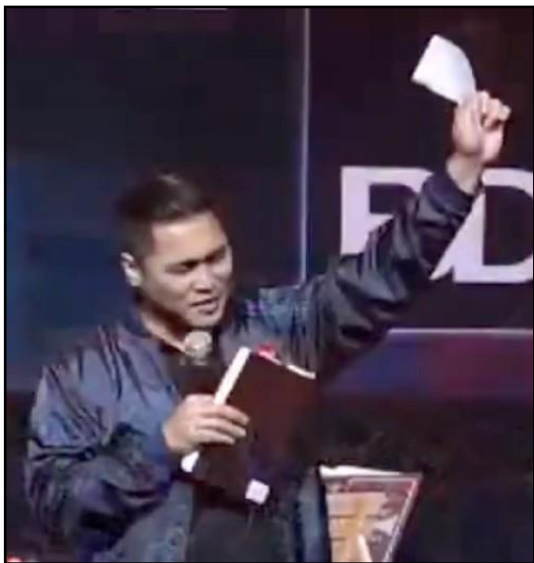
We want to keep on meeting one another. We want to see an explosion of love, transformation of lives. I hope that you are one with us.

LOVE OFFERING

It's time for our giving... If you look, you'll see, we have a space for writing prayer requests. I am giving you this time as a reminder: write something there. We do pray for those requests. And we have here answered prayers.

You see, we have a team in place who prays for your requests and also, in a systematic way, those requests are shown to us and shared with us, servant leaders. This is like our Community communication, in one way or another, since we cannot talk to a thousand people. But we have this system and it's good.

I want to end this encouragement by giving you a *Thank you*. Thank you for your generous giving, thank you for giving 10% of your income. Some are really generous. Some, maybe it's your first time, it's new to you. This is our Family, we give to our Family, we give to our Church.








And guys, I really want to thank you. I want to thank you because you are building this home... Can you look at the people around you with a sincere smile and say, "Thank you!"

Those people watching online—even on replay, Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Let's lift our Love Offering and say this with me:

Dear Lord, thank You for blessing me. Thank You for blessing our Feast. Continue to bless us because we love to honor and bless one another through Your generosity to us. We give this with joy, hope, and love. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.



WAYS TO GIVE	
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Worship!

RAPHAEL BUSTAMANTE:

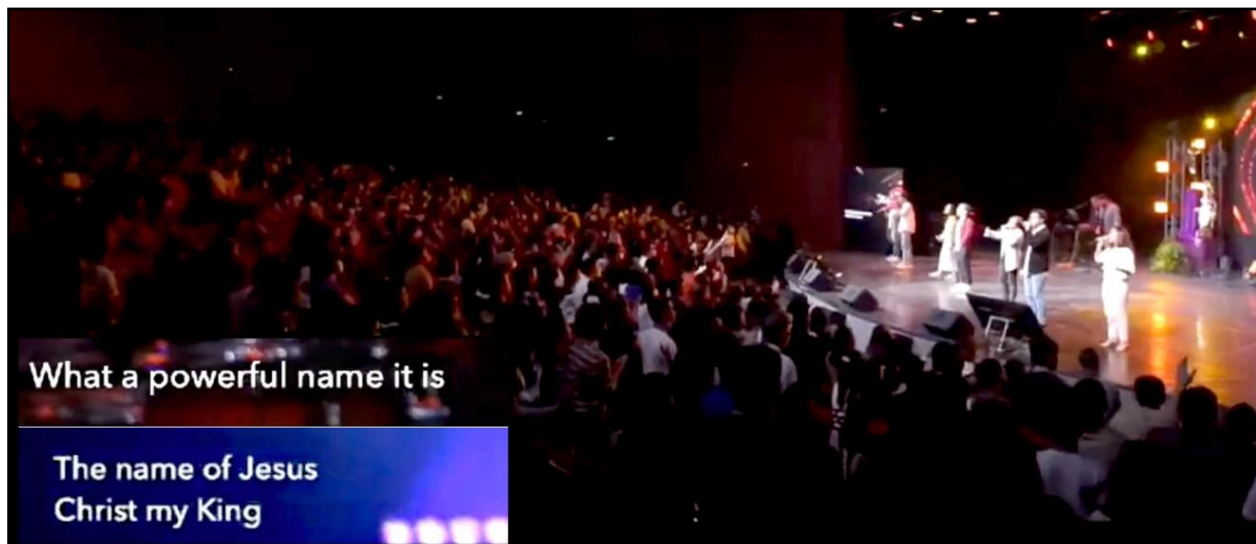
GOOD MORNING! Pwede bang alugin mo ‘yung katabi mo.— Kindly shake the person beside you and say, “Good morning!”

Earlier, Father (Paolo) talked about worship in truth... Right now, we’re going to come into Worship.

So, may I invite everyone to stand up. If you’re watching online, we also want to invite you to stand up and join us to worship.

If it’s your first time here, note this is what we do in our Community—we sing and we pray to God before hearing the Word. We (may) have different reasons coming here. Maybe for some of you here, it’s your Sunday habit, or maybe it’s your first time, a bonding time with your family, or to take a break from the chaos of the world. We come from various walks of life. May I see the young people? Single people? The married people?

But one reason is for sure. We’re here because of one Name, and that Name is Jesus. And you know what? No matter what walk of life we’re on, God was, God is, God will be, and is there in our life. And as we come to worship, let this song be our declaration of truth, trust, and faith. As we sing this as one Community, we come into the Presence of God.





The heavens are roaring
The praise of Your glory



You silenced the boast
of sin and grave



I'll count the joy come every battle
Cause I know that's where You'll be



Yours is the kingdom
Yours is the glory



You have no rival
You have no equal



For You are raised
to life again



Yours is the Name
above all names

Another in the Fire • Chris Davenport Joel Houston
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DECLARATION OF ABUNDANCE



BRO. BO SANCHEZ: We need to say that last statement: *And because I am blessed...* Say that again: *Because I am blessed...*

You need to declare the truth. Yes? You need to declare it. You need to believe it. You know, something may be true, but because you don't believe it, what's happening is that you don't receive the truth. And you don't experience it.

So, you need to declare the truth and believe that it's really there in your life—that you really are blessed.

Say that again: *I am blessed.*

And because you are blessed, you will bless the world. Your children will be blessed. Your siblings will be blessed. Your parents will be blessed. Your friends and neighbors, and officemates will be blessed-- because you are overflowing with the blessings of God. And if you claim this, and you declare this, raise your hand and say, *I am blessed!*

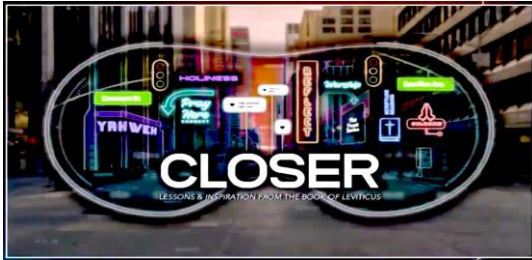


FLASHBACK!

MARCH 12, 2023

Talk

Talk 8



I just want to be with you. I want to greet you. I want to give a little exhortation.

What I want to share with you is something that's really current. Something that God has been speaking to my heart over the past few weeks and months.

It's a quote from American author James Clear. He wrote a book titled *Atomic Habits* and this kind of popped up.... You know, sometimes, there are some quotes that kind of, like, "Whoa, where did that come from?" You were in the right place...

And it spoke to my heart... This is the quote:

"You do not rise to the level of your goals. You fall to the level of your system."

Now, "Bro. Bo, that seems highfalutin..."

Hey, it's not. Here's my question: Do you like the results that you are getting in your: Profession? Career? Relationships? Family? Marriage? Health?

Do you like the results you're getting? If you like the results you are getting, you've got a good system going on. If you do not like the results that you're getting in these different areas of your life, hey, don't blame God. Don't blame other people. Look at your systems...

"Bro. Bo, what system?"

Ah, we've been talking about it in *Leviticus*. What are the rituals in your life? What are the habits, the routines, the ceremonies, the liturgy?

I'm not talking about the religious. I'm talking about the stuff that you do on a daily basis. Your mental habits. Your lifestyle.

The reason I have an amazing, fantastic relationship with this beautiful girl right here at the front row is we've developed over 25 years a *system*. We'll be celebrating in July our 25th Wedding Anniversary. You're all invited to our celebration... Oh, my gosh, what did I say? ☺

What Is Your System?

We've developed a system where every morning, this is what we are going to do: We're going to spend time together. We're going to kiss each other. We've developed a system: once a week we're going to have a romantic date. We've developed a system: that if I hurt her, I ask for forgiveness 25,000 times.

Every morning, what's your system? What do you do in the morning? You have, as system. And if you don't like the results of your day, maybe you need to change your system.

May I share with you my system...

First thing I do in the morning, I drink water. I drink a lot of water. And then after that, I do my breathing and meditation—for few minutes—pray, connect to God. And then I ride my bike. Then I arrive to wherever I want to go. And then I do my pushups. A simple system. And then I read my book. And then I plan.

Some people have another system: They wake up, then they get their phone. That's a system. And then they scroll. And after 35 minutes, they're still scrolling. *That's a system.*

If you do not like the results you are getting, guess what: you've got to change your system.

I do not look at social media until after I prayed, exercised, did pushups, read my book, I planned...

You know what I'm saying? You've got to change your system.

This Feast is a system—where every Sunday, you attend.

That's a system. You make it regularly. You become faithful.

Tithing is a system. Making God your first expense.

Having a Light Group. Having a Feast Light. Not only this big one but a small group of people where you share, where you pray...

All those are systems.

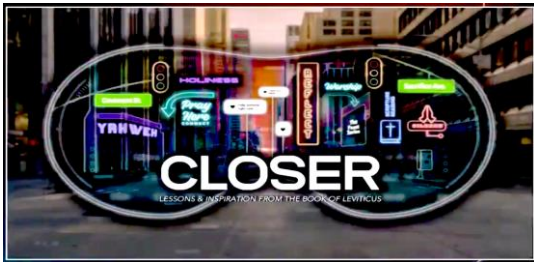
So, you do not rise to the level of your goals. I don't care how many goals you have: "I'm going to be a better husband..." "I'm going to have more finances..."

The goals are okay. But you don't rise to their level. You fall to the level of your system. This is what God wants you to do. He wants you to be responsible and take charge of the systems in your life.

So, keep on listening to *Leviticus*. Keep on being blessed by *Leviticus*.

I'm going to call now this man who has inspired me so much and he has inspired you and he'll continue to do so. Please welcome Dr. Ryan Capitulo.





DR. RYAN CAPITULO: Continue to give a clap offering to the Lord for the gift of Bro. Bo. Sanchez. Advance Happy Silver Anniversary, Sis. Marowe and Bro. Bo.

Good Morning, Feast Bay Area! All right!

Today, we are discussing the 8th Talk of the *Closer* Talk Series, and I will be preaching the message: *Love Rules*.

We are going to continue dissecting the Holiness Laws of Leviticus Chapters 18-20.



But mind you, God instituted all these laws for us to follow—not to stifle our freedom but to actually protect our joy.

Parents, we all live by rules, right? Parents, I'm sure you have rules: for when your children should study; for when they are allowed to surf the Internet-- play video games, or watch Netflix.

I'm sure you have rules for those because you want them to learn their lessons, you want them to graduate and be a step farther towards achieving their goals. Right, parents?

During the Pandemic, the Government instituted some rules: the minimum health standards, the minimum health protocols, to protect all of us, to prevent all of us from spreading the Coronavirus Disease (COVID).

It would be very difficult for us to live in a society with no rules, with no system, right? So, we need rules so that we won't constantly live with chaos.



God's Rules

And the Word of God, in the Bible, gives us rules, gives us commands, gives us systems that we should follow so that we will live a life that is pleasing to God.

Please extend your hands to the Word of God and let us glorify His Word by singing:

*Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet
And a Light unto my path.*

We shall read from Leviticus 19:1-2: ***The Lord also said to Moses, give the following instructions to the entire community of Israel: "You must be holy because I, the Lord, your God, am holy."***

Today, we are discussing these many Holiness Laws:

But I am telling you all of these laws, they want to teach us a very important lesson: that we should obey them so that we will know how to properly, how to correctly love and worship the Lord.

Let us glorify His Word once more by singing:

*Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet
And a Light unto my path.*

1. Laws on Sabbath (Leviticus 19)
2. Laws on Society (Leviticus 19)
3. Laws on Human Sacrifice (Leviticus 18, 20)
4. Laws on Superstition (Leviticus 20)





Laws on Sabbath

These laws in *Leviticus*, they were revolutionary—they were controversial at that time. Let's discuss the Laws on Sabbath and you will see why... Leviticus 19:3 says:

“...you must always observe my Sabbath days of rest. I am the Lord, your God.” (19:3b NLT)

During those ancient times, there were no weekend rest days—people were working every day. So, when God instituted the Laws on Sabbath, and the Israelites started having a rest day, started having one whole day, every week, regularly, the other nationalities, they started looking at the Israelites as lazy people. They did not know that the Sabbath was very important to God. It was so important that God mentioned it *eight* times in the *Torah*.

Because God was teaching the Israelites then—and God is teaching us now—that we should rest in God's embrace. Let's be toxic, let's work so hard for six days a week. But on Sunday—for us—it was Saturday for the Israelites—on the Sabbath, let us rest in God's embrace, and let's just surrender all of our trust, all of our faith, all our confidence in the Lord.

You know, I was really having a hard time serving here in The Feast every Sunday. Because I work Monday to Saturday, and my work is so toxic. You know I am an obstetrician-gynecologist. I wake up in the middle of the night to deliver babies. I work as a clinician—my private practice. I work as a government doctor. I work as a hospital administrator. I work as a medical educator. Just enumerating these, it seems I feel tired already.

So, to say that my schedule from Monday to Saturday is hectic and full—it's an understatement. So, it's really hard for me to serve on a Sunday. I used to serve in The Feast in SM Manila every Friday. So, I really rested on Sundays. But we had to close that Feast because of the Pandemic, and we are serving now on Sunday.

You know, in my prayer time, God talked to me in my heart, and He asked me this question: “Ryan, is serving in the Church rest or work?”

God's voice sounded like He was angry: “Is serving in My Church rest or work?”

And then He made me realize in my heart that serving here in The Feast every Sunday, serving all of you, is actually rest for me.

Serving the Lord is actually serving in the bosom of the Almighty God. And there is nowhere else I'd rather be on a Sunday than here in The Feast with all of you.



Laws on Society

Let's now discuss the Laws on Society.
These Holiness Laws on Society, they want to teach us to share our blessings to others.
Leviticus 19: 9-10 says:



From the start of Scripture, we always read about the preferential love of God for the poor, for the marginalized, for the widows, for those who are neglected in society.

And here in The Feast we always teach you, strive and work hard, go ahead, be successful to achieve your dreams, earn some much, grow your wealth. Why?

Because we want all of you to be generous to others—to share your blessings. That's what we want you to do. That's why we encourage you to be successful.

Why? Are there failures here at The Feast? None. We are all successful. We are all winners and we want you to continue to win in life. Because we want you to be blessings to others.

During the Pandemic, I love what this favorite restaurant of mine did. I have a favorite restaurant in Quezon City. Instead of closing shop because of the Pandemic, instead of firing their employees, this restaurant focused on food delivery. And then they trained their waiters to be delivery riders. And they even provided motorcycles for their waiters. So that they will continue to have a salary, continue to earn even during the Pandemic.

That's what God wants us to do.

Let's clap to the Lord for that blessing of the restaurant.



Look at this picture. I'm sure you know her: Patricia Non. She started the Maginhawa Street Community Pantry. Because there were so many who were having difficulty putting food on the table during the Pandemic.

And what happened? This Community Pantry exploded, right? Inspired so many other Community Pantries all over the Philippines. The Community Pantry that Patricia started inspired all of us to be generous.

That's what God wants us to do.

On June 8, 2021, The Feast Bay Area featured Patricia Non in the second part of its *Better Together* Series.

Titled *NEW BAYANI-han: Celebrating Extraordinary Filipinos*, the show was hosted by Coach Rezza Custodio-Soriano of the Pastoral Council of Feast Bay Area District's Feast at Home, English Professional Life Coach, and Women's Transformologist, and Coach JC Libiran, Inspirepreneur and Feast Builder.

FEAST AT HOME *Better Together* PRESENTS
Community Pantry

BAYANI-han

CELEBRATING EXTRAORDINARY FILIPINOS

Patricia Non
Founder, Maginhawa Community Pantry

JUNE 8, TUESDAY | 8PM

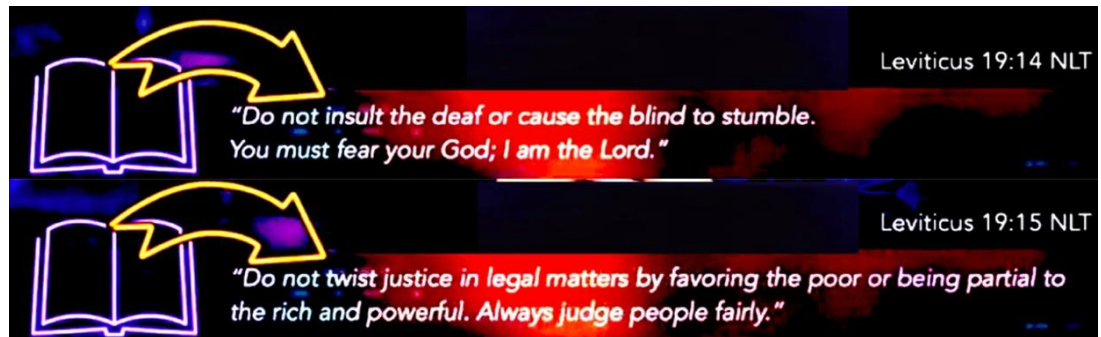
with **Rezza Custodio-Soriano**
Professional Life Coach & Women's Transformologist®

JC Libiran
Inspirepreneur, Author and Feast Builder



See Everyone with Dignity

Here's another Law on Society that God instituted in Leviticus 19:14-15:



This particular Love Rule, this particular Holiness Rule, is teaching us to see all people, to see everyone with dignity, with worth, with value.

This particular Holiness Law is telling us that the unborn child in the womb is a human being, is a person with dignity.

This Law is teaching us that the severely ill, the disabled, the elderly—they are human beings with dignity, with worth, and with value.

God is teaching us that the prisoners, the poor, the marginalized, the orphans, the widows—they are human beings like us with dignity, with value, with worth.

And because of these laws, we should be opposing abortion. We all should be opposing euthanasia, or assisted suicide for the terminally ill. We should be opposing the death penalty. Because even people who society consider as burden, even people who society consider as useless, they are human beings like us—with dignity, with worth, with value. Why?

Because all of us were created as the *Imago Dei*, with the image of God.

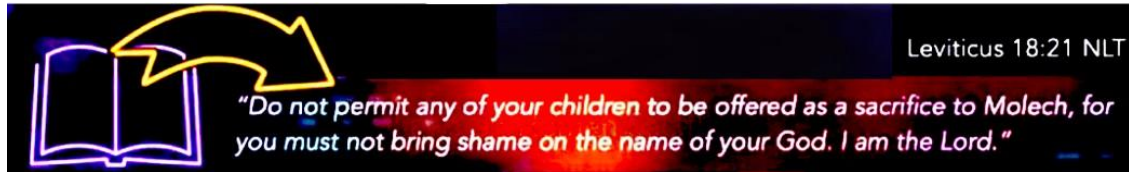


Among the Light of Jesus Mercy beneficiaries are, *from left*: Jeremiah Foundation sexually abused minors; Grace To Be Born's unwed pregnant women, in crisis, prevented from resorting to abortion; and lolas at the Anawim Home for Abandoned Elderly, here being visited by our founder, Bro. Bo Sanchez—all to give them hope for a life of dignity.



Laws on Human Sacrifice

Leviticus 18:21 says:



During the time of the Israelites, 3,000 years ago, the pagan Canaanites, they offered their children to their God Molech. They would throw their children—alive—into the fire of Molech just so they can receive abundance in their agricultural exploits and in their military services.

At right, an illustration from the 1897 Bible Pictures and What They Teach Us by Charles Foster.

So, God had to tell the Israelites, “Don’t do that. Don’t sacrifice your children.

I’m sure you might think, how is this law applicable to us? We don’t kill our children just to succeed in life...

But sadly, there are many who are sacrificing relationships, who are sacrificing their loved ones, their friends, people close to them-- just to get ahead in life.

Yes, there are so many doing that.

Father and businessman who hardly goes home, who always spends his time in the office. That person, that father has sacrificed his wife, has sacrificed his children for the sake of money.

The politician who set aside the truth and propagated fake news. That politician sacrificed the welfare of his constituents just to get elected, just to have power.

The aspiring actress or actor who would give sexual favors just to book a role in a movie or a television series. That particular actor or actress has sacrificed integrity just to be popular.

So, we are still doing it. We are still doing human sacrifice to this day.

And *Leviticus* is telling us to stop. Stop sacrificing your relationships.

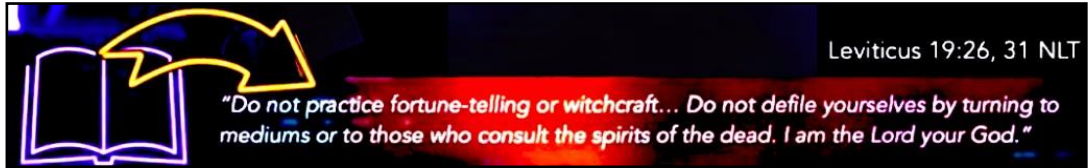
Stop sacrificing the people you love just to get ahead to achieve your goal.





Laws on Superstition

Leviticus 19:26, 31 says:



God is telling us to *stop* believing and practicing superstitions. Many will tell you, "There's no harm in doing that. Wala naming masama.— There's nothing bad about it"

For God, you are defiling yourself when you practice superstitious beliefs. In other parts of the Bible, God calls superstitions and all of these practices *abominable*. In Tagalog, *kasuklam-suklam*.

Question: Do you think "Wala namang masama" when you do something that is kasuklam-suklam?

Yes, there is something bad. Because these practices will make us impure. These practices are abominable to God.

So, please, let's stop doing it. Instead, let us declare that only God is in control of our life.

So, let's stop re-arranging our furniture for good luck. Instead, let us re-arrange our priorities—so that we will experience the providence and abundance of God.

Let's stop consulting fortunetellers. Especially the single people— stop consulting fortunetellers. Let's pray to God-- because God is the source of all good. God is the source of all abundance.

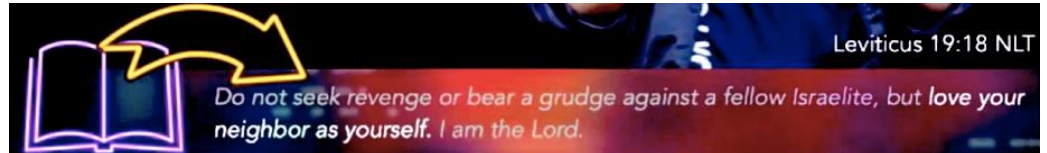
Let's stop wearing certain colors or charms for protection. Instead, let's put on the armor of God.





LOVE RULES

My dear friends, in Leviticus 18 to 20, there are 49 Holiness Laws-- but right smack in the middle of them is Leviticus 19:18:



So, all of these 49 rules, the core message, right smack in the middle, is *Love your neighbor as yourself*.

That's why we call them *Love Rules*.

And Jesus, a Bible scholar, who knew His *Torah* very well, when He was asked what is the greatest of all commandments, He went straight to Leviticus 19:18—the middle of the Holiness Laws-- and He said, "*Love your neighbor as yourself.*"

And Jesus loves us, His neighbors. We know that Jesus practiced what He preached. So, on Christmas Day, Jesus became Man like us so that we would truly be His neighbor. So, He would experience what we experience. He would feel what we feel. And we became His true neighbor on that very first Christmas Night.

On Good Friday, Jesus became the greatest neighbor to that repentant thief—His neighbor while He was on the Cross. Because that thief repented of His sin, he was brought by Jesus to paradise on that very same day.

And on Easter Sunday, when Jesus rose from the dead, He enabled us, He empowered us to also rise with Him so that we too would be His neighbor in Heaven.

Please remember, God instituted all these Holiness Laws as *Love Rules* – to enable us to be loved by Him. And also, to empower us to love others.

So, let's not be afraid of these Holiness Laws. Let's not be wary or stressed about all these Laws. Instead, let's use these *Love Rules* to be closer to people—and to be closer to Jesus.

There was a time--19 years ago-- I was living a life of *no* rules. I just allowed myself to be governed by anything and everything that gave me pleasure—lust, money, popularity, and power.

Earlier, Bro. Bo showed my *Tiktok* video. I'm no longer ruled by popularity, Bro. Bo—even as that video has 3.6 million views. Ha-ha.

Freedom To Serve

So, 19 years ago, God called me to an intimate, loving relationship with Him. And He convicted me. He gave me the grace to live my life according to His rules on chastity, according to His rules on sexual purity, simple living, service to the Church, and service to others.

And I've never been freer in my life-- even if there are so many rules. I'm enjoying the freedom now to live according to God's ways, to live a life which I hope is pleasing to Him. I'm doing my best.

I have the freedom now to serve Him, to serve others, and to love all of you as I love God.

Let us worship God...

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Oh, Heavenly Father, we have come here to worship You. And we ask You:

Lord, let Your Love rule us— so that we will rest on the Sabbath, fully trusting, fully having faith in Your providence.

Lord, let Your Love rule us—so that we will do our best to work hard, so that we will strive to be successful, to earn a lot, to grow our wealth, so that we will help those in need, so that we will be able to help those less fortunate.

Lord, let Your love rule us – so that we will not be governed, we will not be limited by our superstitious beliefs. Instead, place all our trust in You. Instead, allow You to be the King, to be the Sovereign, to be the One in control of our life.

Lord, let Your love rule us—so that we will learn how to treasure our relationships, the people we love. So that we will learn to treasure people instead of money, instead of popularity, instead of power.

Lord, we now know that You made all these rules because You want to express Your love for us. Because You want us to be loved by You. And because You want us to love others.

Lord, we know that You see us. We know that You see our heart. We know that through Your Godly Eyes we are people of value, we are people deserving of Your compassion, deserving of Your mercy, deserving of Your forgiveness.

And so, Father, as Your children, we worship You and we give our all to You.





MERCY MINISTRIES

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

– 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

ANAWIM HOME for ABANDONED ELDERLY PART 3

Feeding the Hungry with God's Love

THIS Lent, we are encouraged to love through almsgiving—to feed the hungry.

In our *Embraced Lenten Devotional*, Fr. Wilfredo Samson said that when we feed the hungry, we're feeding them the love of God.

We are thankful to those who endlessly support our Feast Mercy Ministries. Here are some of our generous donors of Anawim.

Our lolas and lolos continuously feel the love of God because of you. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you, Nhil Ross, Audea Bordeos, and family!





Thank you, Lourdes Villaruel and friends!



Thank you, Inner Wheel Club of Makati East



Thank you, Ashlea Doria and Lota Pili!



Thank you, Roxanne Oquendo and family



**Thank you,
Chinette Panaflor!**

Thank you, De Gracia family!



Thank you, Isorena sisters!

LET'S GET CONNECTED!

We are at the Anawim# Home for the
Abandoned Elderly Office
1860 Rodriguez, Rizal
E-mail: alm.montalban@yahoo.com

Thank you very much
And God bless you more and more!

--With Reporting by Cybill P. Bayto



FAMILY

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, The Feast Family is 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 Mercy Ministries. 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

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 them hope for a new life of dignity.



LIGHT OF JESUS FAMILY
DISASTER RECOVERY MINISTRY

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 Shepherd's 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 Shepherd'Ours Voice, 60 Chicago St., Cubao, Quezon City, Philippines 1109

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FAMILY ONLINE NEWSMAGAZINE

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Go and make disciples of all men.

— Matthew 28:19

