



NEWSLETTER
September, 3 2023



One of the Requirements for Husbands

ONE day, a young couple was in front of me, not looking at each other.

The woman said, “Brother Bo, my husband and I just had a huge fight. It’s really about a petty thing. But no one is backing down...”

“I’m sorry to hear that,” I said.

That’s when the guy spoke up. “Brother Bo, can you be our referee? After you hear our arguments, tell us who is right and who is wrong. And I promise that if you tell me I’m wrong, I’ll apologize right away!”

I pulled the guy aside, and whispered, “Uh, I think you missed getting the memo before you got married about one of the most important abilities required for husbands?”

“What’s that?” he asked.

I said, “The husband must have the ability to say sorry even when she’s wrong and he’s right. If a man doesn’t have this ability, he should never get married.”

Walking back to his wife, he knelt in front of her, and asked for forgiveness.

And I saw both of them hug each other with many tears.

Today, we talk about marriage. May this message empower you today, whether you’re married, separated, or single!

May your dreams come true,

Bo Sanchez

WELCOME
to the continuation
of The Feast Talk Series
Dear Prodigals
Talk 5: *Go Back*
to the Father’s Heart



LETTERS

Surprise!

“SURPRISE those who aren’t believed in you...”

That’s an online meme which Fr. Albert Garong quoted in his Homily at The Feast last Sunday, August 27, 2023.

Fr. Albert is talking about surprises because they are part of the content of last Sunday’s Gospel. Like what? Surprise! *page*

Yes, this issue is about Surprises. Like a surprise Bro. Bo Sanchez shocks a husband in today’s Feast Talk—the continuation of our series, *Dear Prodigals*. Wives, you will like this surprise which Bro. Bo reveals in his intro of the Talk on *page 1*.



Even leaders with power are not spared of surprises. It’s great to be a leader -- but surprise! *Great Leaders Sacrifice Greatly!* Bro. Bo and Bro. Audee Villaraza shocked us in last Feast’s Talk, *pages 19-33*.

Also last Sunday, Bro. John Ben Rodriguez shared a surprise about the baby he and his wife prayed for.



Expenses for the baby’s delivery were more than they expected. But it was not shocking because they had a Baby Envelope—a budgeting tip Bro. JB shared as part of his inspiring *Love Offering* message, *page*.

In *The Feast Family* August 13, 2023 issue, we featured the prompt response of our Light of Jesus Disaster Recovery Ministry now we call The Feast Little Acts of Love, to the onslaught of Typhoon Egay and Typhoon Falcon. But surprise! Right on the heels of these calamities was another super storm, Typhoon Goring.



It’s no surprise, however, that affected areas are kindly receiving Little Acts of Love—like from Feast Pampanga led by Bro. Dennis Sembrano, *page 34*.

Yes, be ready for surprises, rain or shine. And even be ready with a surprise or two for those who are not believed in you...

All for God’s Glory,

Randy Borromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director





FLASHBACK!

AUGUST 27, 2023

Holy Mass



TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Homily

FR. ALBERT GARONG

on the Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah

GOOD MORNING, Everyone!

You know, I am happy with the Internet nowadays because I see this meme that's getting viral: "Gulatin niyo yung mga walang bilib sa inyo.—Surprise those who aren't believed in you:_____."

And you fill in the blank about what's surprising about you.

So, what is it?

We have some surprising incidents that happen in today's Gospel.

Jesus sits down with His disciples and asks them the million-dollar question: "Who am I?"

At first, Jesus asks what other people are saying to them about Him. But then He asks: *Who am I according to you?*

And Simon, the leader, gives the perfect answer-- because it's right: "You are the Son of God."

Good job!

Why? Why!

Because of his correct answer, Simon, then is given a different name: *Cephas* or *Peter* which means *rock*. And he becomes *the rock upon the Church would be built*. For us, Catholics, this is what we refer to mainly when we talk about the Papacy.

Why do we have a Pope?

The Pope is the Peter of today.

So, from Peter, the First Pope, follows an unbroken chain of Peters until we have today, Pope Francis.

But the question is, *Why Peter?* Because as we know, Peter would not be a good disciple.

He may have gotten it right today. He may have gotten a point today. But he also misses a lot.

And in the most crucial moments when Jesus was being crucified, was Peter there? No.

When people asked him, “Aren’t you the follower of the Messiah?”

He denied it three times. And Jesus knew that. God knew that.

So, why Peter? Bakit sa kanya pa? Why give the honor to him? ‘Di ba, dapat sa iba na lang? Shouldn’t had been given to someone else?

That’s a question we always ask: Bakit siya? Bakit sila? Bakit ako? Why he? Why they? Why me?

Someone approached me, “Father, ayoko muna umattend ng The Feast. Ayoko munang mag-serve.-- I don’t want to attend The Feast for a while. I don’t want to serve for a while.”

I asked why.

He said, “Because I’m so sinful, Father. I feel like I’m not being truthful in serving when I have so many struggles and sins.”

Have you asked that to yourself? Or have you looked at others and said, “Why is he/she here? Surprising: She’s a gossip, why is she attending Mass? She might have an enemy in a little while.”

We are so choosy when it comes to our standards of who should be this and that.



The Answer

One time, I was talking to my friend. He said, “Bro, my daughter has a suitor already.”

I said, “How do you feel about it?”

He said, “Can’t tell. He introduced himself: “*Hi Tito, I am... and I want to pursue your daughter.*”

I asked, “So what did you do?”

“Syempre kinamayan ko. Ngumiti ako, pero sa loob ko, sabi ko saan ko ililibing ‘tong batang ‘to mamaya? --Of course, I shook hands with him. I smiled. But deep inside, I was like, ‘Where will I bury this guy later on?’”

Fathers, it’s good I am not a parent. I have a niece who said she already has a crush.

I told her: “What crush? You may have one when you already have a Doctorate.”

That’s just a niece... We have high standards.

That goes for everyone. That goes for Peter.

So, what does Jesus do? What does He say that stands out?

Jesus says it later on after Peter comes up with the correct answer.

He says, “Blessed are you-- for not this world, not the flesh, reveals that to you, but the Spirit.”

In short: You got that answer not from yourself, not from your own power. But it is grace. It is from another source, a Godly source.

And that’s the key. There it is. That’s the most important.

Perhaps, Jesus must have said, “Finally, you got it right!”

That’s what’s most important: To remember that it’s not about us. It’s not from us. It’s all about God. When God asks you to do something, it’s not depending on you-- but He’s going to use you with His power. That’s so important: reliance and trust not in yourself but in God.

Puro sarili. We think only of our self. It’s the same when we feel unworthy-- we feel, “We should not be here...” “He should not be here.”

It’s not about us. It’s all about God. That’s why God wants those who are the weakest, those who are unlikely, because he wants to repeat again and again the message that we don’t get: I am God. I am the one who made it. I am the one who called. I am in charge. *Ako ang bahala.*



What's Most Important

Our First Reading comes from the book of the prophet Isaiah and that is the same lesson again and again that the Israelites needed to learn. The Israelites were focused on strengthening their kingdom. They were building walls, they were creating strong structures, they were creating beautiful palaces-- and even tombs. They were making alliances with other nations, military pacts with Egypt, with Syria, with Babylon-- so that they can be strong.



But the Lord says, “How is it now? Is it I you trust? Am I not your God? Won’t I be the One to take care of you? I’m the One who’ll be your security, and your strength, and your power. But it seems you no longer trust Me...”

And so, Israel was destroyed by their enemies later on. They were so busy strengthening their walls that they lost sight of the most important: which is their relationship with the Lord.

God often tells us: “How will I protect you? How will I care for you? How will I save you if you don’t trust me? How will I work my miracles if you’re too busy in your own solutions without even coming to me and asking me about them? How can I move into your life, if you don’t give me space to enter into your heart? Then, when you’re already in a mess, I am to blame?”



Reading I: Isaiah 22:19-23

Thus says the LORD to Shebna, master of the palace:

¹⁹ “I will expel you from your station, and I will depose you from your ministry.²⁰ And this shall be in that day: I will call my servant Eliakim, the son of Hilkiah. ²¹ And I will clothe him with your vestment, and I will strengthen him with your belt, and I will give your authority to his hand. And he shall be like a father to the inhabitants

of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. ²² And I will place the key of the house of David upon his shoulder. And when he opens, no one will close. And when he closes, no one will open. ²³ And I will fasten him like a peg in a trustworthy place. And he will be upon a throne of glory in the house of his father.

Let God Surprise You

You say, “Lord, it’s hard because You’re so mysterious.”

Exactly. God’s thoughts and God’s ways are so high above our own, so inscrutable, so hazy that sometimes, we’re irritated, because as human beings, we like everything plain and clear.

If I were Peter, I would have said, “I will be Pope? Okay. So, what’s the five- year plan for this position? How does this happen? What should I study? What will I go through? Lord, please make this clear.”

But God is not like that. How I wish...

With so many asking me, *Father, what should I do?*, I wish I could just ask the Lord, “What’s your plan for this person— so I can explain it to him?”

Even as a priest, I don’t know. God just keeps on surprising me-- and I think that’s the point. We have to allow God to keep surprising us.

In faith, you should be ready to be surprised. Your heart should be open, allowing God to move in so many ways... No road...He parts the sea. He will make you walk on the sea. He always has a way you won’t expect...

But not blind, Brothers and Sisters. Let’s be clear. God does not ask us for blind faith-- because He gave us an assurance that His way is the best way.



Second Reading

Romans 11:33-36

Reading II: Romans 11:33-36

³³ Oh, the depths of the richness of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How incomprehensible are his judgments, and how unsearchable are his ways! ³⁴ For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?³⁵

Or who first gave to him, so that repayment would be owed?

³⁶ For from him, and through him, and in him are all things. To him is glory, for all eternity. Amen



In God's Mind... and in His Heart

God's mind is inscrutable. God's hand and feet, we don't know where they are. We don't know what they're doing. But there's a part of God that He completely revealed. What's that? His heart. God's heart is not a mystery because that is completely clear.

Every time we look at the Cross, we are looking at God's heart totally open—ripped open for all the world to see. So that every one of us can see that that heart only has love for every one of us.

And so, we can move forward even if we don't know what God is thinking. Even if we don't know what God is doing. But we know that behind His way is only love for you-- and that's enough.

You can't understand? It's okay. Because what's important is that we know He cares, He is merciful. He loves us and He will not abandon us. He has no other agenda, no hidden motive. All He wants is your well-being. So, just trust Him. You'll be surprised. So, let God move outside of what you expect.

One last point. Peter gets the answer: *You are the Messiah*. Because of that, he becomes the First Pope.

But at the end of the Gospel, what does Jesus say? "Don't tell anyone."

Why? Bible scholars would have many theories why Jesus would keep His identity a secret. One of my favorites is simply this: The disciples were not yet ready. They won't understand yet because after answering who Jesus is—*He is the Messiah*-- the next question is: *What kind of Messiah?*

Because the disciples have a different idea: military power, political Messiah, will subdue all enemies of Israel.

That's the Messiah they want-- and that's the next lesson.

Jesus will say, "No, no, that's not who I am..." Continue the lesson...



Knowing God

My dear Brothers and Sisters, it's the same with us.

God sits down with you and asks you, "Who am I to you?"
"What kind of God am I to you?"

He's not asking for public declaration. He's not asking for a testimony to the whole wide world.

He is asking *you, ikaw mismo*, in your own intimate moments with God, heart-to-heart, God asks you, "Who am I to you? What kind of God do you need me to be?"

God is a mystery. We can't consume Him, so I hope we can always ask God: What else? How much deeper can we develop our relationship with Him? How much more can we grow in knowing God?

Not knowing *about* God-- because that's different.

But *knowing* God.

Knowing about God is what you read and what you study. I know a lot about God because I studied Theology. But there are people out there who have not even finished Elementary school who know God more than Fr. Albert does-- because they experience Him every day. They encounter Him intimately in prayer. They seek out God in the smallest incidents that are happening in their life. Every day, they depend on God for their daily bread. They have total surrender. Those are the ones who truly know who God is.

My dear Brothers and Sisters, I hope we do not tire of letting God induce Himself to us, letting God surprise us, letting God move in different ways-- because that is how we build a faith that is truthful, that is how we build a life that is meaningful, and that is how we build a strong and faithful church.

May God bless us all.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8

¹ *I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my heart, for you have heard the words of my mouth; in the presence of the angels, I will sing your praise;*

^{2A} *I will worship at your holy temple.*

R. Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.





JOHN BEN RODRIGUEZ:

Hallelujah! Praise be to Jesus! Welcome home to the Feast Bay Area where you are loved!

I just want to thank you for your generous giving and continuous support to The Feast. We are not just supporting our Mercy Ministries; we even have funds so we can improve The Feast experience of everyone. The leaders are always thinking about that: How can we make the experience better for the attendees? Do you recognize that the experience is getting better? Yehey, a big hand to God! Because you are all partners in this.

Are there first-timers here? Let's clap our hands for them! If there's a first-timer beside you, greet that person. Say *Hi!* Later, after this Feast, please don't go yet because we have a very special gift for you. We invite you to come forward, and we will pray for you.

Love Offering

Now is the time to give to God. May I invite you now to bring out your Love Offering envelopes? And before we do the giving, we would like to announce that as of last Sunday, August 20, 2023, in our Grand Feast, we had a total of 660 answered prayers! Hallelujah! Prayers are indeed being answered.

And to read some of them...

Michelle: "Thank You, Lord, for the Jewels Conference! I am refreshed even if I am alone. I trust that You will give me soon the best friend that I will forever treasure."

God Answers the Simplest of Prayers

Are you praying for good health? Who among you here are praying for good health?

This one is from Sheryl: “Thank You, Lord, for the positive results-- benign polyps in my colon!

Thank You, for good health.”

Another is from Elizabeth: “Thank You, Lord, for the good results of my thyroid ultrasound. Hallelujah!

Another blessing: “Thank You, Lord, I am going to Canada on September 13 to be reunited with my husband.”

Hallelujah! God is answering prayers! Amen.

Another one from Sis. Charie: “Thank You, Lord, for the Light Group in my office. I feel Your love. And for the friends that are journeying with me now.”

From Sis Rachelle: “Thank You, Lord, we are favored by the arbitrators in our case. We’ve been praying for this for the longest time. 85% of our petitions was granted. This is a very big help to me to start all over again.”

Hallelujah! God answers the simplest of prayers and even the most complicated ones.

I’d like to declare this today: That God wanted you to experience abundance.

So, I’ve been giving to God and I’ve been realizing that my idea of abundance was different before. Because when I thought about abundance, it was that financial abundance means more money. But now, I realize it is more than that.

Here’s God’s promise to you, chew on this: God wants you to enjoy abundance in any situation that you have now and He will bless you with that.

Just to share with you: We followed Bro. Bo’s budgeting tip (10% tithes; 20% for investment; 70% for daily needs). My wife and I wanted to make sure that we give to God first. So, every month, when income comes in, my wife and I would sit at the table and really divide our money because we want to make God first. And we believe that when you give to God, you want Him to become your co-Creator in your finances.

And you know what? I’m talking about abundance in any situation.

We prayed for a baby. So, we set aside money for the baby. We set aside some tithes, we set aside some money for my mother because I am her provider, and we set aside money for our future and everything.

Unexpectedly, our baby was born via Cesarean delivery. The hospital stay was even extended to seven days. We were grateful we had the cash for this expense in the Baby Envelope. We also have a Travel Envelope—the cash in there will not yet allow travel abroad, but local trips are already possible.





Participating as Co-Creator

Why am I sharing this? Abundance at any financial level. I believe that the abundance God wants you to happen today will happen when you participate to be a co-Creator—by being diligent and disciplined in your stewardship of your resources.

So, today, this is your step, this is your commitment to God. This is you saying to God:

“Lord, I want You to be a co-Creator of my finances. I will be a good steward and I know that You will let abundance happen in my life.

Not tomorrow, not next week, not next year, but today!

Almighty Father, we thank You, because this is the symbol of Your abundance. You teach us to be diligent and disciplined. We offer our stewardship to You. We know that You will add everything else. In Jesus’ Name. Amen!

With joy in our heart and smile on our face, let’s give our best to God.

 <i>Ways to Give</i>	The Builder of the Light of Jesus Family Mega Manila Feast Bay Area, Inc. 000-4000-24846 
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Worship!

EXHORTATIONS



MHADZ PAMAONG:

Good Morning, Feast!

I got word that it's raining outside.
But nothing can stop us from praising
the Lord!

*Hallelujah! Yes God, yes Jesus, we give all
the glory to You-- You who laid down your life
for us so we may live even when we don't
deserve it.*

*Jesus, someone in this place had been told
that we are not worth the fight. But I pray that
the Holy Spirit will remind us of the truth*

about Your love-- because everything in Your being is love, all You do is love.

Brothers and Sisters, right now, if you ever come at a place of question,
of doubt God's love-- I know because I'd been there too-- I pray that we may be
reminded of the beautiful story of the Cross. And may we have that power to grasp
no matter how long, and wide, and deep the love of Christ for us.





THERE IS NO GREATER LOVE
THAN YOURS

I COULD'VE LIVED THIS LIFE
DOIN' MY OWN WAY

BUT THEN YOU CALLED MY NAME
SHOWED ME A BETTER WAY



NOW THROUGH ME, COME USE ME
TO SEE YOUR KINGDOM COME



YOU CALLED ME AS YOUR OWN
IN AWE OF WHAT YOU'VE SHOWN



I'M RUNNING DECLARING
THE LIFE YOU'VE WON FOR ME



THE WORK YOU'VE DONE IN ME
SO HERE NOW I AM SINGING



I WON'T STAY SILENT
WON'T KEEP MY EYES OFF YOU



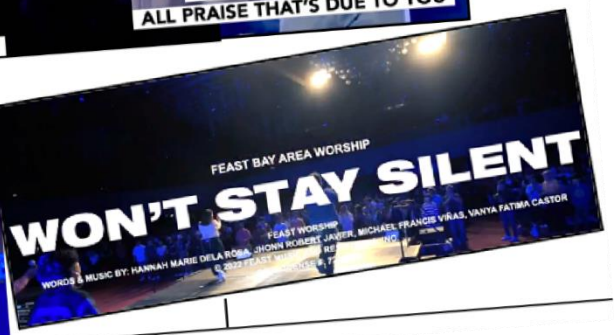
NOT HOLDING BACK
ALL PRAISE THAT'S DUE TO YOU



YOU ARE A FAITHFUL GOD
THE WAY THE TRUTH THE LIFE



ALL GLORY
I GIVE TO YOU



FEAST BAY AREA WORSHIP
WON'T STAY SILENT
FEAST WORSHIP
JOHN POLKSKI, JAVIER, MICHAEL, FRANCIS, VIRAS, VANNA, FATIMA, CASTOR
WORDS & MUSIC BY: HANNAH MARIE DELA ROSA
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AUDEE VILLARAZA:

Thank You, Jesus.

You know, if you're looking for a place to find rest, you are in the right place. If you're looking for a place where you will find purpose, you are in the right place. If you're looking for a place where there is abundance, you've come to the right place.

And best of all, if you're looking for your One True Love, you've come to the right place. Because Jesus is here! And where Jesus is, miracles happen. Love happens. Healing happens.

Why don't you put your hands together for King Jesus. Come on, bring your love today. Shout your praise. Come on, somebody... Thank You, Jesus. We honor You. We love You. We glorify Your Name. Praise God!

Touch somebody beside you and say, *Welcome Home!*

Come on, this is a family affair. The Feast is a family. And this is a place where Love abounds.

I want to welcome everybody here, to the happiest place on Earth: The Feast.

We want to greet everybody who is joining us online. Thank you so much for clicking on that button and staying here with us. We want to say special greetings also to the parents who are there in the Children's Room. Thank you so much for taking care of your children and for participating in The Feast at the same time.

But I also, I want to say *Hi!* to all those on the second floor. Hello, thank you for being here with us. Those who are near to God, you are the ones.

We're going to have wisdom pouring down this place. I hope you came hungry and ready for that.

But I want to ask you first: How many of you feel a bit tired? You need a bit of rest? You feel like this week had been very busy? I want to honor you for still being here and for putting God first in your schedule. Clap your hands for the person beside you who is here in spite of being tired.

But you know, I also want to honor this person. He's somebody I know who's been tired. His week had been very, very busy. And I know for a fact that he wasn't even supposed to be here. Because he arrived at 2:00 a.m. – this morning. But because he loves God so much, he is here—if only to say *Hi!* to all of you.

Bro. Bo Sanchez!





BRO. BO SANCHEZ:

Thank you so much. I have zero energy. Ha-ha. Like where my brain is? It's somewhere here. But I really wanted to be here... My flight was delayed from Davao, and so, I don't have the energy.

But I still want to be here for a few reasons.

No. 1: You are my home. You are my family. You know, when you're tired, you're exhausted, you want to be with your family. And you're my spiritual family. So, that's No. 1.

No. 2. Second Reason is this: I need God. I need God's Word. So, I told Audee, I'm going to be there in front and I'm going to listen to the Word

of God. Because I need God.

I need God's Word. I need to worship Him. That was a beautiful Worship, right? And beautiful Mass.

Third Reason—I'm preaching already, I said I was not going to preach. Ha-ha--

Third Reason is I want to be in a place of miracles. So many miracles have happened in The Feast over the past 43 years—43 years of miracles. And I've always wanted to be in a place of miracles.

Last: When you're supposed to do the right thing, and it's difficult to do, it is more fulfilling. Because it shapes you and creates good stuff in you.

In Tagalog, *Pag mas mahirap, mas masarap.*

I've noticed that. You know, when there's something I have to do... let's say, The Feast...

A few Sundays back, there was heavy rain. I didn't have a role in The Feast. You know, I could go late or something. Felt good to sleep.

And then I realized, "Uy, umuulan. Uy, mas mahirap pumunta sa Feast. Mas masarap pumunta sa Feast. – It's raining, it's more difficult to go to The Feast. It feels greater to go to The Feast."

Do you have that mindset? I have that mindset. When it's difficult to do the right thing, and you still do it, it's a great feeling. Seems like you're strong. Like you're excellent.

That has always been my mindset—in anything I'm doing, whatever I am doing—whether it's work, or ministry, or relationships.

It's Rebuilding Time

If it's more difficult to do the right thing, I am excited.

So, there. I just wanted to encourage you.

Davao was beautiful. We had two seminars. I spoke to The Feast leaders there. They're doing an amazing work. And all of them, the Feast Builders were saying, *it's rebuilding time*.

Anywhere I go around the country, when I talk to Feast Builders, they say *It's Rebuilding Time*. People have new habits now. They learned new habits during the Pandemic – not to go to The Feast once a week, can be just twice a month...

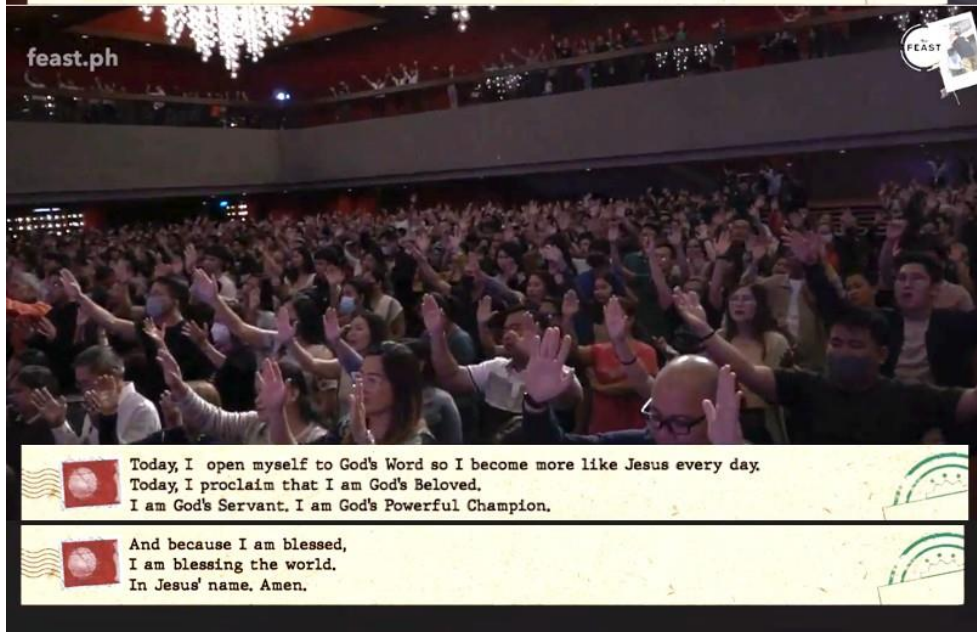
So, we're calling all the Feasters. This is what I told the Feast Builders: You go to each Feast and you speak to them and say, *Let's do the hard stuff guys*. We need to rebuild our Family. You're part of the Rebuilding process. We need to do the hard stuff. Like, if it's raining, you still go to The Feast. It's difficult to serve, so many complications, you still serve. It's difficult to give, you still give.

You need to rebuild this house. This is your house. And we are going to rebuild it.

Can you just tell somebody beside you: *Rebuild this house with me. This is us*.

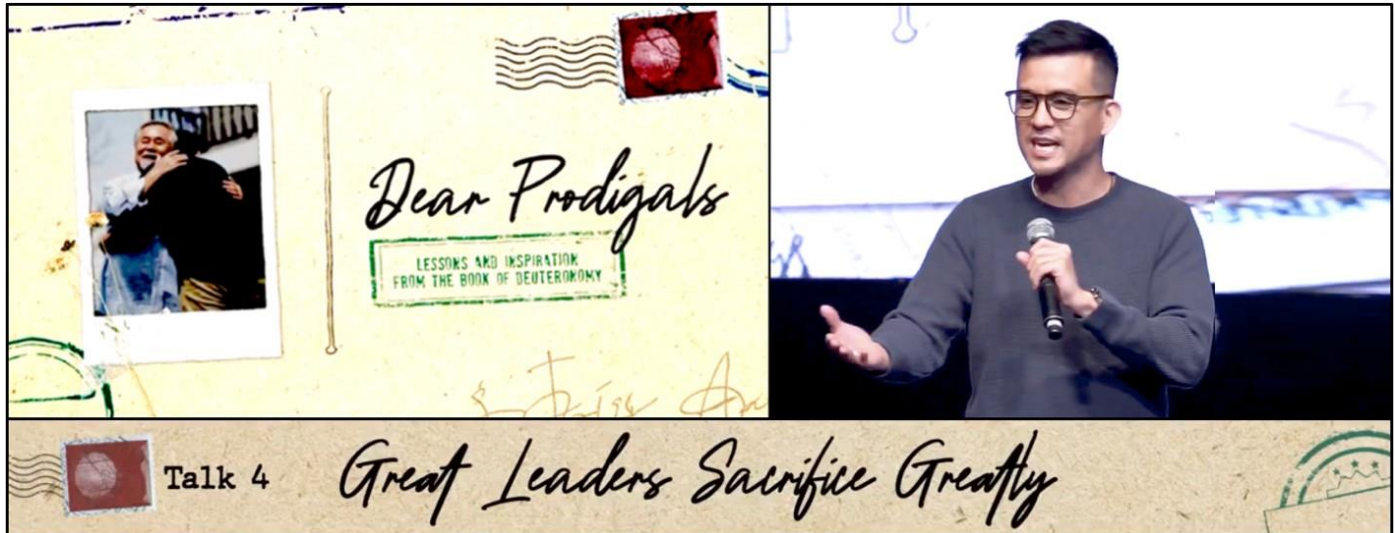


NOVENA TO GOD'S LOVE DECLARATION OF ABUNDANCE



*Thy Word
is a Lamp
into my feet
And a Light
nto my path*

Talk



AUDEE VILLARAZA:

We're going to take a page from the book of *Deuteronomy*. Now, we are in Talk 4 and before I give you the big message, I want to do this first.

We are in Chapter 17 verse 18. It says here that Moses is talking to the Israelites and giving them instructions, guidelines, for a king that they would need, and he says:

"When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, (Torah) taken from that of the Levitical priests.

It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law (Torah) and these decrees and not consider himself better than his fellow Israelites..."



I just want to point out one statement where it says when he sits on the throne of his king, *he must copy for himself the body of instruction on a scroll and he must always keep that copy with him and read it daily as long as he lives.*

Moses is trying to tell the Israelites something that's very simple. What he was saying? He was simply telling them: *You need to be a Bible nerd. You need the Scripture. You need to learn how to meditate this day and night.*



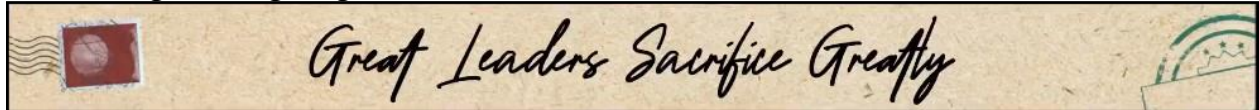
Calling

One of the lessons that I'm learning—and Bro. Bo kind of hinted it a bit earlier—is that as you grow up in life, you're going to discover that God's calling you to be a leader. What are the qualities that God wants you to have for you to be a good leader?

LEADERS NEED THE LORD!

As a leader, you need the Lord more than ever. You need Him to guide you. You need His Word. You need Him to transform you. And that's what we're going to talk about today.

Our big message right now:



You know, in life, there are people we see who are natural-born leaders. You don't even have to know them personally. Even from afar, they look like they fit the mold of a leader.

The same is true that if you have natural-born leaders, you also have natural-born followers-- and I know that because I'm that person. Before I even preferred *leading*-- Bro. Bo knows this-- I preferred *servicing*. I preferred *following*. I'm that kind of person who, you tell me what I need to do and I'll go ahead and do it. Give me the orders, give me the instructions, and I'll do them. I'm a follower.

But I also believe that God is calling each one of us to be a leader. God is calling you to be a leader. If you are still young, you might not feel yet that God is calling you. But there will come a time in your life when God will call you to lead.

And you don't have to lead like a big organization yet. Maybe it's leading a small group, a Light Group, your classmates, your section, or maybe you can upgrade that a bit. God calls you to be a leader.

You Are CEO, COO, CFO

My good friend, Bro. George Gabriel, shared this with me many, many times.

Long time ago, before he left for Australia, before he passed on being The Feast leader to me, he said: “Auds, I love you too much to not let you experience leadership.”

The message sounded so deep. At first, I actually didn’t understand it. But overtime, as I’ve grown into the mold of becoming a leader, I understand that perfectly now. You are a leader not just in the sense of leading a Feast, for instance. But you are a leader also in being a husband, being a better lawyer, being a better brother, being a good father. That’s what leading is all about.

But here’s a question: *“How do you become a good leader?”*

It starts with self-leadership. Because if you’re not a leader yet-- and you don’t feel like you’re a leader-- at the very least, you need to be able to lead yourself. Because do you know that you are the CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of your life?

It’s the reason some people, they have trouble in life because they’re trying to pass on that role to other people.

Here’s a news flash: This job as a CEO of your life, it’s a lifetime job. You cannot retire from it. You can’t merely outsource that job to somebody else.

But here’s the other thing: You’re not just the CEO, you’re also the COO (Chief Operating Officer), and the CFO (Chief Financial Officer).

Sometimes, you’ll realize that your schedule might be messed up, and you’re unhealthy because you’re not exercising. Maybe it’s because you’re not performing your duties as COO-- you’re doing a poor job. Or maybe because your finances are all messed up and investments are out of whack. Maybe it’s because you’re not doing the right job as the CFO because that’s supposed to be your job.

Leadership starts with self-leadership. And as God grows you to become the leader that you are, then you become a leader to other people.

And this is what’s very tricky-- because we’re going to talk about leadership and Moses is going to share with us four different types of leaders of Israel.



Who Gets To Be Superior

Let me talk to you about this first: Leadership is all about having authority. It's all about having power-- who gets to be superior.

But here's the thing: There are two ways to exercise your authority.

Your authority can be rooted in your position-- your title in life. If you own a company, then you are the authority. If you're a parent to your children, you're in authority-- because they have to obey you.

The other type of authority is not rooted in the position. It's rooted in your love for people. It's rooted in affection.

I'll give you an example. We have a five-year-old at home-- his name is Ethan. When Ethan was growing up, because we were parents, he would obey us. And we would teach him how to obey his parents, rightfully so.

But I've noticed this: That Ethan would obey me only when my voice would get a bit louder, when I would get a bit mad at him, angry at him.

You know when your kids are young, you want them to learn to be disciplined-- how to obey you. But I also realized this: That when he gets older, I don't want him to obey me and give me authority to his life simply because I have a loud voice.

No.

I want -- and this is my prayer-- that when he grows up, he would give the authority over his life to me because he knows that I love him.

Authority cannot be forced. You cannot coerce people, especially children, to follow you.

But here's the thing: You know when that person loves you, you're going to follow that person, right? That's how God is. The reason we follow God is not so much because we're afraid of hell. It's because we know that God loves us so much that He would give the best to us.

That's good authority-- because it's rooted in love. It's rooted in that affirmation that God simply loves you.



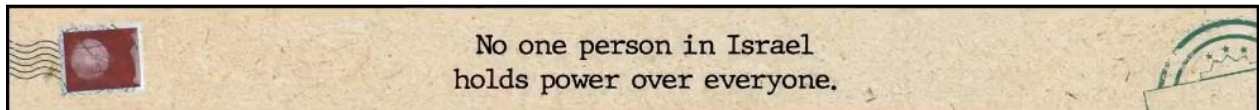


Now, we are in the journey of *Deuteronomy*. This is where we get a bit technical. Moses is talking to the Israelites and he is saying, *Hey, Israel needs four kinds of leader: judges, kings, priests, and prophets.*

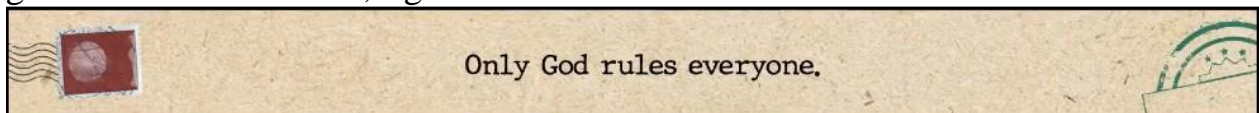
Take note: In the olden days, we used to have the idea that kings are usually the ones who have full authority. They have higher power than the priests and the judges, and the prophets.

But in the beginning, God actually designed it this way: that no person in Israel had the authority over the others. They are all equal. But He was more powerful than the other.

The lesson is simple: That no one is above the Lord.



So, even if you are occupying the top seat in your company, even if you're the president, or the emperor, or the king of that little island of yours, guess what? God is still more powerful than you. You are still under God's authority, and that's good news to a lot of us, right?



1 JUDGES



The first that Israel needs are judges. This is the point where they're now scattering to the different parts of the Promised Land according to the 12 tribes of Judah.

And Moses says this to the people:
"I want you to appoint judges and officials for yourselves from each of your tribes in all the towns the Lord your God is giving you. They must judge the people fairly."



"Appoint judges and officials for yourselves from each of your tribes in all the towns the Lord your God is giving you. They must judge the people fairly."

It's not explicitly said, but the way I read this when I was studying this is that the instruction was you get a judge from your tribe.

You know, that's a practical principle because if you get somebody who does not know your culture, does not know your behavior, does not know your story, chances are you might not judge fairly. I learned this from our leader, Bro. Alvin Barcelona. He taught this to us: that whenever you're making big decisions, the first thing you need to do if you're a leader is you need to look at both sides of the story. Don't make a decision if you're just seeing one side.

And that's what Moses is saying: If the person comes from the same tribe, chances are he will know the background of the people, right?

And then it says here: "*They must judge the people fairly.*"

Question, how do you judge people fairly? How do I know if I'm going to judge these people with impartiality? Moses said the answer in verse 15.

He said, "You must never twist or show partiality."

Who Is a Good Judge?

Filipinos, this is something I believe you can relate to. We have this ugly culture-- a toxic culture called the *padrino system*. It's like where you can gain promotion or obtain favor by knowing the right people, having the right connection. Just because you know this person, you can get that position.



This gets us all the way back to the Spanish colonial period because that's what happened. If you wanted a seat in government, all you needed to do was go to the Spanish official. Or a wealthy Filipino-- usually in a form of a friar—to be blessed with that position.

You know, the sad part about this is that it still happens today. We see this everywhere-- in organizations, in companies, in the government. Sometimes, you see leaders who are not really equipped for that job position but the only reason they got that job appointment to begin with was not because they had the right skills-- but because they had the right surname.

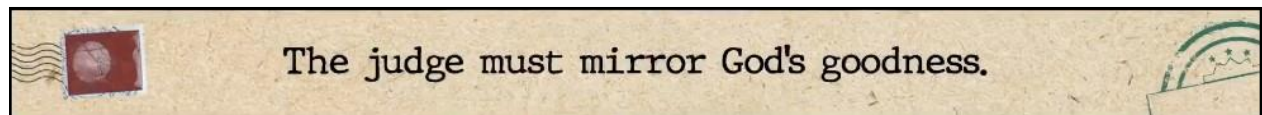
“PADRINO SYSTEM”

It's the *padrino system*.

Why should the judge be a good judge?

Because a good judge must never play favorites. That's what Moses is saying: Never twist or practice partiality. Don't play favorites. A good judge is somebody who will treat a billionaire the same way he would treat a beggar-- regardless “if you do something special for me.”

A GOOD JUDGE IS SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T PLAY FAVORITES.



A good judge needs to mirror God's goodness. Does it encourage you to know that God is a good judge? To know that all the injustices you've gone through in your life, at the end, God will correct all of those.

Indulge me for a moment. Can you just imagine if the *padrino system* is practiced in Heaven.

At the gate, there's St. Peter.

And you are like, “Ninong! Do you recognize me? Your godchild? Can you just let me in? Your gift to me?”

He let's you in...

Thank God, there's no *padrino system* in Heaven.

God Cannot Be Bribe



Moses said this: “God is somebody who shows no partiality and cannot be bribed. He ensures that orphans and widows receive justice. He shows love to the foreigners living among you and gives them food and clothing.”

“...who shows no partiality and cannot be bribed. He ensures that orphans and widows receive justice. He shows love to the foreigners living among you and gives them food and clothing.”

News flash: You cannot bribe your way to Heaven. There’s mercy but there’s also justice. God is good and He would judge us according to His ways because He’s a good judge.



Moses also said this, “You too must show love to foreigners, for you yourself were once foreigners in the land of Egypt.”

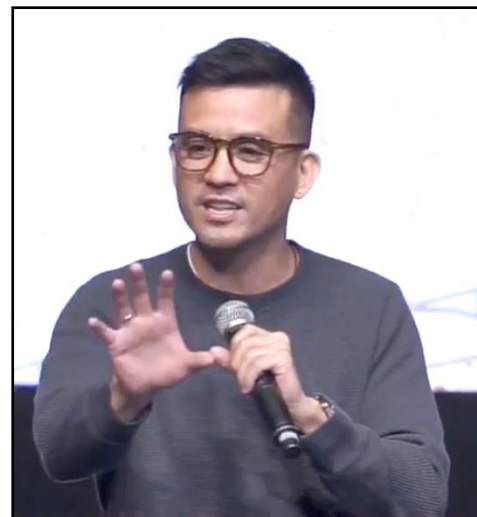
“So you, too, must show love to foreigners, for you yourselves were once foreigners in the land of Egypt.”

This changes our perspective.

This is the reason you need to treat the CEO of a company the same way that you treat a random beggar on the street.

It’s because we’re all the same. We are all foreigners in this land. We’re all just adopted and accepted because of the grace and mercy of the Lord. Thank God for that!

That’s the reason we need to love every person because we’re all the same.



2 KINGS

God says we need kings.

And take note: That during this time when Moses was deliberating this, there was no king in Israel. But they wanted a king because they were so jealous and envious of the other nations who had human kings. They did not know they actually had a king—God was their King.

But here's the problem: If you want somebody else to rule your life more than God. That's why you get into trouble-- because God is supposed to be your King, you worship God alone.

But the Israelites wanted a human king and they kept on telling Samuel they wanted a king. (1 Samuel 8)

You remember the time when we studied the life of Saul?

Moses said, "Be sure to select as king the man the Lord your God chooses."

They wanted a king and they demanded Samuel for a king and eventually God said, "Okay, look for this man named Saul."

Saul eventually became king-- but we all know that Saul started strong but he ended wrong-- because he was such an insecure leader.

Saul was the first king of Israel. Saul was a representation of a king chosen by man.

On the other hand, David, who came after Saul, was regarded as the greatest king of Israel. He was a representation of a king chosen by God.

Now, what is the lesson here?

Be very, very careful. Always pray and discern about the leaders that we choose.

Why? Because when we select poorly, eventually we suffer greatly.

So, we need to be sure about the kings that we put into place.

How can we determine if this person is going to be a good king?

Or if this person who is leading us is a good leader?





Qualifications of a Good Leader

Moses says three qualifications: “The king moreover must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them for the Lord has told you that you are not to go back that way again.”

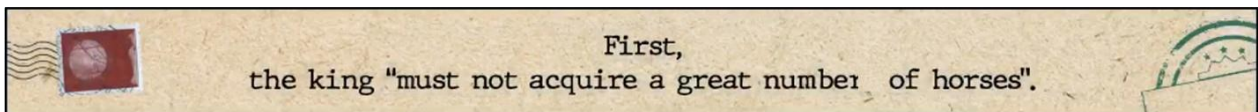
And then second qualifier he says, “He must not take many wives or his heart will be led astray”, and then the third one, “He must not accumulate large amount of silver and gold.”



“The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the Lord has told you, “You are not to go back that way again.” He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold”.

They symbolize something. (What a leader must not have too much of.)

First: Horses.



The first one, he says, a good leader must not acquire a great number of horses.

I want you to know that during that time, 3000 years ago, horses were regarded as weapons. They didn't have guns and technology back then. So, horses were their weapons.

Do you want to know what their tanks were in the ancient times?

Horses connected to chariots.

Do you want to know what their missiles were?

Soldiers riding on horses.

So, God is simply saying: “I don't want you to put all your trust on weapons.

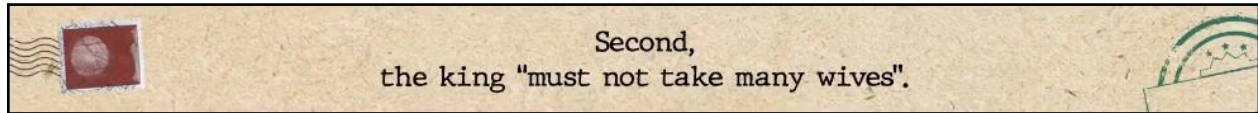
I want you to put it on Me because I'm your greatest weapon.”

Did you know that God is your greatest weapon?

God said, “No greatest weapon formed against you shall ever prosper.”

Whatever weapons are against you, they will not succeed because God is your greatest weapon.

Second: Wives.



Here's the second qualification: God says a good leader must not take many wives.

I was wondering about this, and for some reason, I was asking: "Moses, did you even have to write this? Isn't that common sense? I mean one wife is more than enough. I mean, more than one wife is a recipe for disaster."

But Moses was specific.

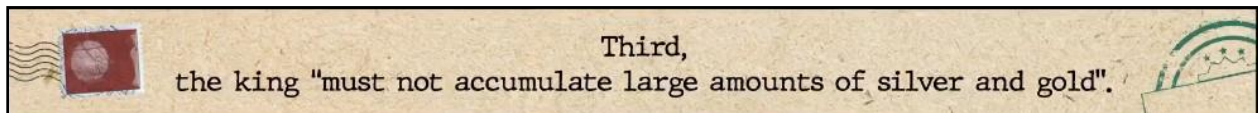
I'll tell you the context. Because back in the day, women represented political alliance. Remember the stories that you would watch or you would read.

How kings would make an arranged marriage with other kingdoms. Because they wanted to expand their territory. So, they would look for a beautiful princess somewhere to be wife for their son. And they would talk with one another so that they could expand their kingdom.

So, God was simply saying: "I don't want you to put your trust in all these women. I don't want you to put your trust in your political alliances. Instead, put your trust on Me because *if I am for you, who can be against you?*"



Third: Silver and Gold.



And here's the third: God says for you to be a great leader, you must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold. Because sometimes, your focus becomes about what you need--no longer about what your people need.

Sometimes, when you get drowned in too much material and worldly stuff, what happens is that you're only enriching yourself-- when you're supposed to enriching the life of other people.

That's why God says: "I don't want you to put your trust in weapons, in wives or women, and I don't want you to have too much wealth."

Take note: God is not saying you *cannot have*. You can have weapons to protect yourself. You can have one wife. You can have wealth. But God is simply saying this: That anything in excess oftentimes becomes reckless.



Solomon's Record

There's one person in the Bible who follows after this who failed in all three:

The son of David, Solomon.



Solomon has 40,000 stalls of horses, 700 wives and princesses, and 300 concubines.

But you know, Solomon was a man of God, somebody who knew Deuteronomy 17 and yet he failed.

That speaks a lot for all of us.

Sometimes, you realize that your heart deceives you at times.

True wisdom is not in your mind. It's in your heart.

Never underestimate the power of your heart to deceive you.

That's the lesson today: Never have too much of something-- because then you'll start making it your God and God will be replaced in your life.

**INSTEAD OF WEAPONS, WIVES AND WEALTH,
THE KING MUST HAVE THE WORD.**

So, instead of having weapons, women or wives, and wealth, what you need to have is the Word! You need to have the Word of the Lord in your heart.

It says here: *"You must copy for yourself this body of instruction on a scroll and then you must always keep this copy with you and read it daily as long as you live."*

When it comes to the Word of the Lord, you don't spectate. You participate. Because the greater your responsibilities in life, the greater your reliance is to the Word of God—to the truth.



3 PRIESTS

How many of you are blessed that we have priests?

Notice that all Jewish priests were all Levites and what happened is that actually, they did not inherit any land.

Remember that they were distributing the land to each of the tribes of Judah. But the Levi priests had nothing. Remember that the Levitical priests --that are the whole tribe of Levi—would receive no allotment of land from among the other tribes of Israel. Instead, the priests and Levites would eat from the special gifts given to the Lord-- for that is their share.

Really? That's it? They would have no land of their own among the Israelites? Why? Because the Lord Himself is their special possession—just as He promised them.

In an agrarian nation like Israel, land did not mean a square-meter property in posh Valle Verde. It doesn't mean like a two-bedroom apartment in high-end Bonifacio Global City (BGC).

No.



Land means food.

Land to the Israelites during that time meant food. It meant survival. The more land you had, the more food you had. But because the priests did not have land, they had no source of food. So, how were they going to survive?

God was simply teaching them a lesson: That if everybody is going to survive, including the Levitical priest, you have to be in this whole thing together. You have to support each other. Your neighbor, if you're part of the tribe, you need to give what's part of your land to them-- to share what you have.

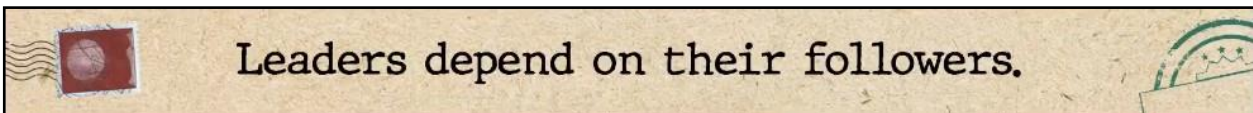
My Blessing

You know a beautiful thing that Fr. Bob McConaghy told me many years ago?

I remember that during the Coronavirus Disease (COVID) Pandemic, we were all isolated. We couldn't be together. And so, we all felt like we still need to continue The Feast-- because we believe that the sheep needs a shepherd.

But you know, Fr. Bob said this: "Yes, the sheep need a shepherd, but aren't we forgetting that the shepherd also needs the sheep?"

Leaders depend also on their followers.
They need their followers.



That's why you know, as a Feast builder, I'll tell you this: I pray for a lot of people. They message me, they come over. But you know what my blessing is in life? That from time to time, people would be the one to actually ask what I'm praying for. People would approach me and say Brother, "What do you like to pray for?"

That's why leaders need followers.

That's why, as good followers of our priests, we support them. You know we give them our prayers-- but we support them financially as well because they're relying on us.



4 PROPHETS



“I will raise up a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites. I will put my words in his mouth and he will tell the people everything I command him.”

--Deuteronomy 18:18

I believe that there is a certain purpose that prophets were placed as the last one. It's not an accident. They hold a very special, unique job among all the leaders.

And I'll tell you this: With the three other leaders-- the judges, the kings, the priests-- when they all stray away from the Lord, guess who straightens them out and directs them back to the Lord?

The prophets. That's the main job of the prophets: to point the way back to the Lord. That's what Moses did.

Moses was the first prophet and then we have Joshua, and Samuel, and Nathan, and Isaiah, and the prophet Jeremiah, and Ezekiel, and Amos, Habakkuk, Micah, Malachi, and then eventually Elijah.

When people would stray from the Lord, the Prophets would point their finger again and say, “This is the way to the Lord. Worship the Lord your God.”

That's why if you notice, in the book of *Deuteronomy*, Moses would often say, “Obey as the Lord commanded.”

It is a reminder for the Israelites to follow the Lord once again. But here's my question: How come we don't have modern-day prophets anymore?

It's because Jesus is supposed to be the Greatest Prophet we follow. He's The Prophet!

Everything that Jesus does, we follow. Everything that He says, we obey. He's the Greatest Prophet!



MERCY MINISTRIES

*Jesus responded, “Why are you afraid? You have so little faith!”
Then he got up and rebuked the wind and waves, and suddenly there
was a great calm. —Mathew 8:26 NLT*

The FEAST LITTLE ACTS OF LOVE PART 2 *Prompt Action on Goring*

TYPHOON Egay. Typhoon Falcon. And now, as we write this article, Typhoon Goring.

As of August 27, 2023, Typhoon Goring had strengthened the southwest monsoon or habagat, so it had leveled up to Super Typhoon, with 185 km/h and gustiness of up to 230 km/h, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

We know that Egay and Falcon, two of the strongest typhoons to hit the country, caused floods, driving thousands to flee their homes and destroying over a billion pesos worth of crops and infrastructure.

Goring may cause floods and landslides in affected provinces mostly in northern and central Luzon.

The successive storms have kept our Light of Jesus Disaster Recovery Ministry we now call The Feast Little Acts of Love, up on its feet. We featured the response of the Ministry to help those affected by Typhoons Egay and Falcon.

Dennis M. Sembrano, Feast Builder, The Feast Pampanga, gives an update of the Ministry’s recent actions.

“We did relief operations for one elementary school in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga,” he relates .

He adds: “Our problem is we need more financial support. There are lots of generous people, but still we couldn’t give enough. To be able to continue our relief projects, the Ministry has to have separate fund for this kind of situation Being pro-active is the key to disaster response. We need donations in kind or in cash.”





Calling

For Bro. Dennis, his top calling is to be husband to Jay Lyn and father to their three children. *Here*, with Dennis and Jay Lyn, *from left*: Nicole Denise, 20; Joshua Dennis, 17; and Aron Dennis, 12, all students.

Next to family, serving God through our faith community, Light of Jesus Family, is clearly a calling for Bro. Dennis.

Before joining the Light of Jesus Family, Bro. Dennis already belonged to a Charismatic Community.

“But I guess you can name me what you call a “nominal Christian,” he pointed out.

Then through the invitation of Bro. Clint Llemos, Feast Light Coordinator, Pampanga, Bro. Dennis attended a *Feast Live* at Feast Bay Area. So, he officially joined the Light of Jesus Family in August 2019.

By God’s grace, Bro. Dennis has been well-prepared for this Mission.

His parents, Honorio (deceased) and Maria Trinidad, still active at age 63, raised him well as a good Catholic, along with his siblings, Lauro Magno, 36; Isabel, 38; and Maria Crisantabel, 41.

For his education, Bro. Dennis started at the San Fernando Elementary School, graduating in 1995. Then, he finished high school to the University of the Assumption, 2000, and college at the Holy Angel University, 2005. He is now working on his Master’s degree in Pastoral Ministry at the Don Bosco School of Theology

To put food on the table, he works as sales and marketing head at Megawide Construction Corporation (Precast and Construction Solutions Group).

Though serious with his Mission, Bro. Dennis knows how to relax.

He smiles, “I love to cook Japanese, I play drums, I do collect toys (Japanese).”

Acts of Love

Bro. Dennis ministers to 50 to 80 members plus beneficiaries of The Feast Pampanga Little Acts of Love.

“When I joined LOJ, we were introduced to a lot of “acts of love” ministries. Oftentimes, we are also tapped by other Feasts to help in their own apostolates,” he relates.



The Feast Pampanga
Sundays 9:45AM | Clark Cityfront Mall



Blessings

Bro. Dennis counts his blessings: “Since I joined The Feast, I’ve gained new families and friends.”

Best of all, he adds: “God has been generous to us in ways I can’t even imagine. The biggest blessing of all, however, is realizing that it is not hard to give if you open your life to the Lord. God Himself will give you a generous heart. Just be open to receive it.”

Behind this inspiration is his favorite verse, 1 Timothy 1:14: *And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.*



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 minor girls particularly victims of sexual abuse.



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



He Cares Mission
provides shelter and pastoral care for street children.



Pag-asa ng Pamilya Foundation
grants scholarships to indigent 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.



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 Inc. 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 Inc. and mail (registered mail) to Shepherd's Voice, 60 Chicago St., Cubao, Quezon City, Philippines 1109

4. Directly Deposit to Our Bank Accounts. Deposit to Shepherd's Voice Account in any branch of these banks:

Account name: Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation Inc.

BPI: Savings Account no: 0123-4849-67 Cubao Aurora Branch

Banco de Oro Savings Account no: 003970019804 General Araneta, Cubao

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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

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Go and make disciples of all men.
— Matthew 28:19

