

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

YES, we are saying three Thank You's today. Because we are giving you the third talk of our life-changing Feast Special Mini-Series: *Thanks-Living*On October 8, 2023, Bro. John Ben Rodriguez gave us Talk 1: *Grateful Living*On October 15, Bro. JC Libiran delivered Talk 2: *Generous Living*.
Today, October 22, Bro. Didoy Lubaton tackles Talk 3: *Greater Living*On October 29 Bro. Audee Villaraza goes onstage for Talk 4: *Glorious Living*.
Again, this exciting Feast Special Mini-Series is our way of saying Thank You, Thank You to the Lord and to you!



May your dreams come true,

Bo Sanchez

Bo Sandy

Be Bigger!

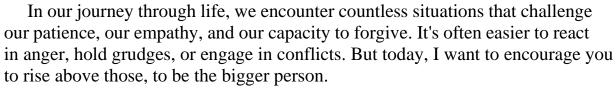
WE don't mean your tummy. We mean your heart.

Welcome to the third talk of our Feast series: *Thanks-Living!*

Today, we'll unpack the message *Greater Living*. And I bet it's not what you think it would be. It's not an easy talk to chew and swallow—but believe me, it will be fruitful.

Our one big message for today is *Be the bigger person*.

What does it mean to become a bigger person?



Being the bigger person doesn't mean you're better than anyone else. It means you're choosing to operate from a higher level of consciousness-- where kindness, compassion, and understanding are your guiding principles.

Today, let's allow God to love us so that we get to love others as He modeled to us. We'll go to practical ways and reminders on how we can choose to be the bigger person. Not to make others small-- but because it is the right thing to do.

Bigger Feast Blessings to all!

All for God's Glory,

Didoy Lubaton

WELCOME
to our
Feast Special Mini-Series
for October 2023
Thanks-Living
Talk 3:
Greater Living





Meet a Dozen and More Friends

IN THIS issue of *The Feast Family*, you will meet 12 and more friends.

Discussing the parable last Sunday's Gospel, The Parable of the Wedding Banquet, Fr. Joel Jason

presents three types of Wedding Guests you really should know about, page 4.

Bro. Bo Sanchez and Bro. Didoy Lubaton tell us about the Bigger Person—

and it's not about their weight, pages 1 and 2.

Bro. Bo honors Sis. Fe Briones, Light of Jesus Missionary who always said Yes to God, page 18.

Bro. Bo's talk was actually introduction to Generous Living,

Talk 2 of our ongoing Feast Special Mini-Series

Thanks-Living. Bro. JC Libiran tackled the inspiring talk, pointing out three Kinds of Persons in this World. Flashback starts on page 18.

Bro. JC led us to Four Ways To Live a Generous Life and you can see four more persons there who should be living a Generous Life, page 29.

So: 3 Wedding Guests + 1 Bigger Person + 1 Missionary + 3 Kinds of Persons in the World + 4 More Living a Generous Life = a total of 12 Persons.

Plus more. Since we're talking about Generous Living, Bro. Audee Villaraza shares blessings Feasters give and receive, page 12.

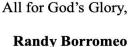
And we focus on Bro. John Raymond Fabularum, kindest donor of our Anawim Home for Abandoned Elderly, page 33.











Media Ministry **Executive Director**







Holy Mass



Excerpts...



Homily FR. JOEL JASON

on the Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

GOOD MORNING, Everyone! Thank you for coming to The Feast!

The Gospel that we just read might as well be the foundation Gospel of our regular Sunday gathering here. We call our gathering The Feast-- and truly, every time the people of God gather, we gather for a feast that God prepares for every one of us.

But in the Gospel, we heard a parable-- not an ordinary parable. It is one of the parables that disturbs us because if you listen well to the parable, you will note the details of the parable sometimes do not make sense. But that is actually the point of some parables.

You know, Jesus is a very good Rabbi, a very good teacher. The rabbis during that time made use of different techniques when they taught and when they gave parables. Sometimes, they use the technique of exaggeration to catch people's attention.

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Disturbing Parable

Flannery O'Connor, a fiction writer but also a famous social worker and philosopher, once said, "In the land of the deaf, you need to shout."

And in many of her novels, that is what she does. She writes novels that provoke. She writes novels that disturb people. Sometimes, the parables that we read in the Gospel are those kinds of parables.



Now, why is the parable in today's Gospel disturbing? Imagine there was this king. His son was getting married. He invited people to attend the wedding. The people refused to attend. What did the king do? The king killed all of them and burned their city. That was just it? You kill those who declined your invitation? But, don't take this literally—as if God is a capricious God, na kulang sa pansin—who needs attention. That if you decline His invitation, He will kill you and burn your city. That is an exaggeration—to catch our attention to the urgency of the invitation.

There are Three Types of Persons in today's Gospel.

No.1: Those with improper priorities. Why improper priorities? It is the king who invites you. You know, when a king invites you, you don't say, "Let me check my calendar."

Maybe, if Taylor Swift is the one who invites you: "Please come to my concert. I am reserving a front-row seat for you..." You don't say, "Umm, let me see if my schedule is okay."

No. You drop everything you're doing because you want to be there. Now, what we have here is Someone much, much, infinitely greater than Taylor Swift. What is the truth? Sometimes, really, we do prefer giving priority to a Taylor Swift than an invitation from the Lord.

Like the people we see in the Gospel, we give so many excuses: "Oh, I will go to my farm. Or I will go to my business."

And so, the Gospel is asking us: "What is your priority?"

You know, St. Thomas Aquinas, when faced with the question:

"What must I do so that I can feel God working in my life? What must I do so that I can give time to God?" ... You know what he said?

Simply: You want to feel God in your life? Three steps: make time, take time, and give God your prime time.

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Make Time, Take Time

What does it mean to make time? You put the task on your calendar. You make it your priority.

Sometimes, we say, "Oh, Father, I was not able to go to Sunday Mass because I had so many things to do."

You know, when we find ourselves making that excuse, it's a simple matter of priorities. It simply means it's not on my calendar. It's not in my priorities.

You know, whenever I come here every morning, I see people jogging, walking. They put top priority on jogging. There's nothing wrong with that. But I am simply saying: that if something is important to you, you make time for it.



Therefore, if you don't find time for God, it simply means you don't consider Him important. So, this Gospel is asking us to check our priorities. You make time-- and not only *make* time but also *take* time. Taking time means making sure that if you are there, you make the most of every moment.

When you go out on a date, you take time for your spouse. You don't say, "Hurry up, finish your dinner so that we can go home."

No. You take time with each other. Don't be distracted. Put down your phone. Make sure that you really, really enjoy the moment together. You don't only make time. You take time. And then you give God your prime time. You don't give just bits of your time. Like the last time of your day, when you're already tired.

No. You give God your prime time-- not your *spare* time.



Reading I: Isaiah 25:6-10

⁶ On this mountain, for all peoples, Yahweh Sabaoth is preparing a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of succulent food, of well-strained wines. ⁷ On this mountain, he has destroyed the veil which used to veil all peoples, the pall enveloping all nations; ⁸ he has destroyed death for ever. Lord Yahweh has wiped away the tears from every cheek; he has taken his people's shame away everywhere on earth, for Yahweh has spoken. ⁹ And on that day, it will be said,

'Look, this is our God, in him we put our hope that he should save us, this is Yahweh, we put our hope in him. Let us exult and rejoice since he has saved us.'

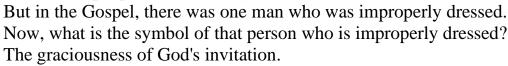
10 For Yahweh's hand will rest on this mountain, and Moab will be trodden under his feet as straw is trodden into the dung-heap.

No. 2: Those who are improperly dressed.

Now, the dress there is symbolic. Today's Gospel is not simply an instruction about fashion. It is not simply an instruction about style. No. The dress there is a symbol of one's worthiness.

You know, when you are invited to a wedding banquet, it is a sign of disrespect if you are not properly dressed. When you are invited to a wedding, do you come in undershirts and shorts?

No. The dress that you wear symbolizes the importance and the honor that you give to the occasion and also to the people who invited you.



According to the parable, when the people refused the king, he took everyone walking on the streets and brought them to the wedding banquet. Of course, they will be improperly dressed. Do you expect people walking along the streets carrying with them a wedding garment? No. We can expect them to be improperly dressed.

So, the person in the Gospel who is improperly dressed is unworthy of the occasion. And that shows the graciousness of God's invitation: you don't need to be worthy to be invited. God does not wait for you to be neat before He lets you enter His Kingdom. No. You don't need to be worthy.

But this is what's important: Once you are there, you do your best to be less unworthy.



Reading II: *Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20*

¹² I know how to live modestly, and I know how to live luxuriously too: in every way now I have mastered the <u>secret</u> of all conditions: full stomach and empty stomach, plenty and poverty. ¹³ There is nothing I cannot do in the One who strengthens me. ¹⁴ All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. ¹⁹ And my God will fulfil all your needs out of the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ And so glory be to God our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.



Important: Give Your Yes to God

So, in the Gospel, the person who is improperly dressed reminds us of the graciousness of God-- who invites us even though we are unworthy. Let's hope once we are invited to the banquet, we will begin to realize that we will make ourselves less unworthy.

It is like this: You are applying to be enrolled in a university. But then you are not qualified-- so, you will not be accepted.

But the kind Dean tells you,

"Okay, I will give you a slot in this university. I will accept you."

What will you do if you are given that slot out of mercy, out of consideration, even though you are unqualified? You will do everything to make yourself less unqualified.

Even though you are improperly dressed, you will do your best to make yourself less unworthy of that invitation.

And every time we are invited by the Lord to come to Him, to develop that intimate relationship with Him, initially, we find ourselves unworthy. But don't think that you are unqualified to come to the Lord. He will not wait for you to be qualified.

Actually, it is that very invitation that will make you qualified.

So, what is important? Give your *Yes*. Say your *Yes* to the invitation and come to the wedding feast.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6
R. (6cd) I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

- ¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- ² In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful waters he leads me;

^{3A} he refreshes my soul.

R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.



No. 3: Those who are improperly motivated.

So, No. 1: Those with improper priorities.

No. 2: Those who are improperly dressed.

No. 3: Those who are improperly motivated.

You know, in the Gospel, that person who is improperly dressed can also be a symbol of those in the wedding-- but they are improperly motivated.

Isn't it that there are wedding crashers? They attend even if the groom and bride don't know them.

What do the crashers want? They just want to eat during the feast.

And those are also a symbol of people who are improperly motivated.

But what is the Gospel telling us? When we are at that wedding banquet, there is only one motivation that is necessary. What is that motivation? It is love. You are there because you love the king who invited you. You are



there because you love maybe the bride and the groom who are celebrating their special day. You are there for no other purpose but love-- and you allow love to touch you.

That is the problem. Sometimes, we are invited by God out of His love for us. But we do not allow His love to touch us.

That is why that man in the Gospel was taken out of the banquet because he was already there, but nothing was changing in him.

Yes. God will invite you as you are-- but do not stay as you are. Okay, let me repeat: God will invite us as we are. That is the love of God. But when we allow the love of God to touch us, let's hope we will not stay as we are.

Because when love touches you, it will change you.

No one who is touched by love remains unchanged. And if you are really touched by love, if you really experience love, you definitely will be changed.

As the song goes: "You changed my life in a moment."

That's how love is, isn't it? When love touches you, you will be changed forever.



The Eucharist Feast

So, what is that image of the man who was taken out of the banquet hall? He was already in that banquet. He was not qualified, but he did not allow the love of the king to touch him. That is why he remained unqualified.

Don't do that.

Even though we are unqualified, we are brought into the wedding banquet because of the graciousness of God's love. Then rejoice in that love and allow that love to touch you. Because when the love of God touches you, you will never be the same. You will never be the same.

So, my dear friends, every time we attend The Feast, every time we attend the Eucharist, sometimes we might feel: "I am unqualified. I do not fit. I am not properly dressed."

That's okay. Just recognize that you are here because God loves you. But do not stop there. Allow God to touch you so that when God's love touches you, it will change you. Then, even though you are unworthy, you will be less unworthy of that love. And the more you allow God's love to touch you, the more and more you become transformed by love. And then you become an intimate part of God's wedding banquet.

My dear friends, every Eucharist, that is the mystery that happens in every celebration. We are unworthy. God is inviting all of us. And in every Eucharist, allow God to enter into our life. Allow God to transform you. So that together, the Feast that we celebrate on Earth may become a feast that we will celebrate later on in the Kingdom of Heaven. Amen.

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BRO. AUDEE VILLARAZA:

Let's give the Lord a big hand, Everybody! Come on, if you're blessed, give God a shout right now. Yeah! Thank you so much for being here.

Can you tap as many persons as you can and say, "I'm blessed. I'm sitting right next to you."

You better mean it too. :)

How many of you are happy that you are here in the house of God? Raise your hand. If you're online, give us a virtual hands-up. Thank you so much, Everybody, for coming here.

Do we have first-timers joining us? If that's you, may you please stand up? We want to recognize you this moment. First-timers! Come on, Everybody, let's clap our hands and make them feel welcomed.

First-timers, this is now your family-- whether you like it or not. :)

Welcome to The Feast!

Everybody, make friends with them. Can you tap them and say, "Welcome home"?

Thank you so much. Thank you for being here.

I love it that we're all together in the house of God today. Whether you are here for the first time or you've been coming here for the longest time, this is a place where it's okay to not be okay. It's a place of vulnerability. It's a safe place, and this is the place where God is-- and where God is, miracles happen.

Love Offering

For those of you who are joining us for the first time, we've got Love Offering envelopes. This is the time when we give the Lord the first fruits of our labor.

And I'd like to read to you just a few blessings that people have been receiving here at The Feast. These are Thanksgiving prayers, and I'm happy to announce that as of last Sunday (October 15, 2023), we had 491 members who gave thanks to the Lord. Clap your hands because God has been blessing us.



Remy says: "Thank You, Lord, for making me an instrument to be a blessing to others. Thank You for giving me strength and wisdom to overcome all the trials in life."

Remy adds: "Thank You, Lord, for giving me the person who has taught me to be a better person. Thank You for everything, Lord."

A message from Ralph Joshua: "Thank You for my award: Best Clerk. Thank You. Thank You for giving me good friends. They have surrounded me with love even in my worst situation."

Here is everybody's friend, Anonymous: "Lord, Thank You for the unconditional love and support you've showered me every day. I'm so blessed and happy that I'm always attending The Feast A.M. session. Thank You for also the answered prayers na almost nabayaran ko na lahat ng aking utang-- that I have paid most of my debts. I love You, Lord. Thank You."

Angel says: "Lord, thank You for guiding and protecting me this week—that I managed to pass all of my quizzes and exams last week... For the protection that keeps me and my family safe. Amen."

Binette says, "Lord, I thank You for my six hours of sleep last night. I feel so refreshed, even after six hours only. Thank You for Louie who invited me to attend The Feast. Lord, thank You for my new team at work. Our process is challenging, but I thank You for our trainers, especially Miss Yish. Thank You, Lord, for keeping my mother and her companion safe during their trip to KL."

Let's clap for the Lord for that beautiful blessing.

And then, lastly, we hear from Julian: "Two weeks ago, I was crying my heart out, praying for my heart's greatest desire. But today, I am still crying... out of pure joy because the Lord heard my prayer. I am now a Certified Public Accountant! Praise be to God! I don't know how I did it. I just know that He was there with me. It was all Him. He believed me, even when I did not believe in myself. Thank You, Lord. You are gracious and You are faithful."



You might have your own Thanksgiving prayer, and I might not have been able to read them. But keep them in your heart.

As you lift up your Love Offering envelope, I want you to just feel that God has blessed you tremendously and that now it's your turn to give to Him today.

Say this with me: "Dear Jesus, You have blessed me so much, and for that, I am grateful. And today, I get to give back to Your Kingdom. Bless me more,



God bless you all! Let's worship the Lord.

Worship!

EXHORTATIONS



TL DELA PENA-SAN JUAN:

God has always been and will always be good, and there's so much to thank Him for. Amen.

So, as we come into Worship, whether you're online or a regular attendee, or a first-timer, I want you to take that posture of joy and gratitude today. Let's sing praises to the Lord and thank Him for everything that you've got this morning.

Amen!

LUAN FLORIDO-FEDERIGAN:

Psalms 136 says: "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever."

And that's what we're going to do today, Brothers and Sisters.

He's so good that He stays true to His promise that He will never leave us, and He will never let us down. Amen.

And that His love is never-ending, and His love for us will never, ever change. Do you believe that? Hallelujah!



So, can you feel His Presence right now in this place? Can you feel His love? Yes! Hallelujah!

So, let's just bask in His Presence right now and acknowledge His goodness... and continue doing so in our life. That in whatever situation we are right now, whatever circumstance, whether in joy, in contentment, in hope, in good health, and in light, and greatly, and more greatly, whether we are in sadness, in despair, in sickness, in darkness, we just need to do one thing: that's thanking God. And we thank God simply because He is good. He is good.

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BRO. BO SANCHEZ:

Father in Heaven, I thank You that though we run away from You, You run towards us and run after us. We take one step away from You, You take one step towards us. We are unfaithful, You remain faithful. We say No to You, You keep saying Yes to us. And though we have given up on ourselves, You never give up on us.

So, we thank You that today we stand before You saying Thank You and Sorry.

We repent, and we say Yes, Lord, we will



follow You all the days of our life. We cannot do this on our own, but if You are there with us and that Your goodness will continue to chase after us, and if Your blessings will continue to run after us, then our Yes will be a Yes, and our life will be Yours. In Jesus' Name. Amen!

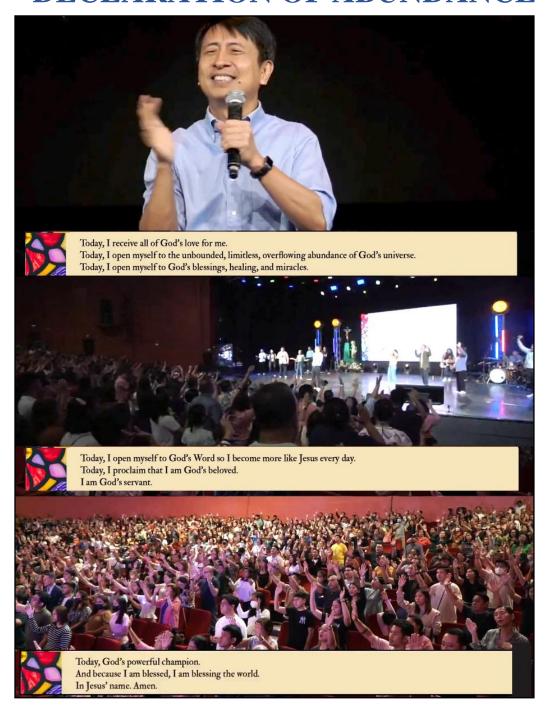


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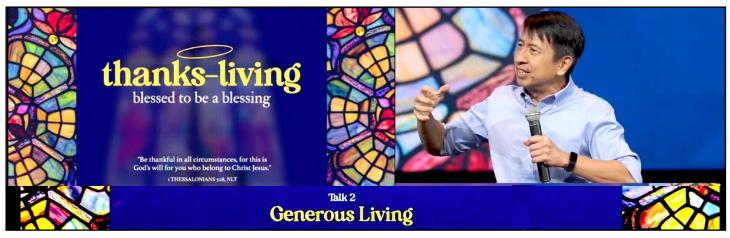




NOVENA TO GOD'S LOVE DECLARATION OF ABUNDANCE



Talk



BRO. BO SANCHEZ:

WHAT I want to share with you is, you know, how many of you sometimes, you look around and attend The Feast? How many of you have been here for more than a year, more than two years, more than three years, more than ten years?

If you've been at it for ten, ask me how many years I've been here.

A total of 43 years ago, I was there in the garage in the first Feast. We did not call it Feast then-- just a prayer meeting. But I was there, and sometimes when you keep attending The Feast, you know what happens? You begin to lose gratitude. You lose gratitude for how amazing The Feast is and how amazing the people around you are.



Let me share with you about this one woman who started with me many, many years ago at The Feast-not at the very start, but somewhere along the start.

Her name is Fe Briones, and she was a single woman, who started serving the Lord, started saying *Yes* to God, became a small group leader, and took care of some of the single women.

Then, somewhere along the way, I had a call from God to build Anawim, our ministry for the abandoned elderly. At that time, I still didn't even know what it was going to be like. But I knew that we're supposed to get this big property--five hectares-- in Montalban, Rizal, called Rodriguez now.



She Said Yes

I told my friends at The Feast here in the Light of Jesus: "Who wants to come with me? But God has to call you. God has to call you to serve with me."

At that time, Fe was a very accomplished professional. Her resume reads "Bank of America." It's like, "Whoa!" She was really hitting it off in her career. And then from there, she went to another job and was doing so well.

There were four friends who told me, "We're going to build Anawim with you, Bro. Bo."

They were:

Joe Dean Sola and Ardis Abrogar, who would later marry Joe Dean. They're leading He Cares Foundation, our street kids' ministry right now;

Tita Neneng Mangahas. She was our cook. She owned a canteen-- she left that and started serving with us;

And then, Fe Briones. She said, "Yes."

So, we transferred to this property that had nothing: just cogon grass, no electricity, no running water, nothing else. And we lived there for three whole years. We slept in bahay kubo-- nipa hut-- nipa slats, bamboo slats. And little by little, the poor people would come. We would welcome them. The orphans came. The abandoned elderly came. We started picking up lolos and lolas from the streets and bringing them to Anawim. And Anawim started growing.

She Loves People

A number of volunteers joined us to serve in Anawim.

Three years after, I told Fe and the others: "I'm getting married. I have to leave you guys."

And Fe took over Anawim.

Then, a few years later, Fe said, "Bro. Bo, may I talk with you?"

I said, "Sure."

She said, "My mom needs me. I'm here taking care of lolos and lolas, but my mother needs me. God wants me to go back home to Bohol to take care of my mom."

And I said, "Please do that."

So, she went home.

Still, in Tagbilaran, Bohol, she kept on saying *Yes* to God while taking care of her mom.

She started a small Feast in her home.

Fe is not a preacher. Fe is not a worship leader. But she loves people. And she started loving the young people who came to her house. There were very few. She started loving them and serving them. The Feast there grew because God raised up leaders and preachers in The Feast.

Last week, Fe messaged me, and she said, "Bro. Bo, our Feast is growing. We're now at full capacity in our venue. Too many people. We're putting up another Feast. Bro. Bo, I heard that you're coming here to Tagbilaran to give a TRC (Truly Rich Club) seminar. Please visit our servants."

She texted me on a Thursday. I could not respond. I was so busy. But I was able to read her message. The next day, Fe was on the computer, I was told. And then slowly, her head slumped... and she's in Heaven. She was not sick. No pain, no struggle.

But God just called her: "I need you here. I need you here in Heaven." And she said *Yes*.





For Those Who Say Yes

The Feast is a beautiful community. This is a home of people like Fe, who for the past almost 40 years, have said *Yes* and *Yes* to God.

This is an amazing place. If you're new to The Feast, I'm telling you, we're not perfect. We've got very imperfect people here. But I'm telling you, this is an amazing community because we've got people like my friend Fe Briones who kept on saying *Yes* to God all her life.

Anawim would not be Anawim if it were not for Fe. And The Feast in Bohol would not be there the way it is now if it were not for Fe, who could not preach, who could not lead worship-- but she loved people.

And you know what? Right now, God is calling you to serve Him. How? Don't look at me—I don't know.

But God is calling you, and God is saying, "I want to use you to be a blessing to other people."

Will you say Yes?

If you say *Yes*, look at Him and tell Him, "I can't do this on my own. You've got to be the one to do this."

And you know what Fe taught me?

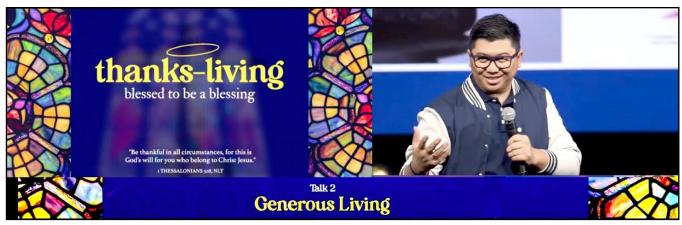
Before I leave the stage, I want to tell Fe: "Fe, I was not able to respond to you 24 hours before you died. I was not able to respond. So, Fe, you hear me now? I'm going to Bohol. I'm going to meet the servants."

A beautiful life well-lived. And I want to be like Fe.

You want to be like Fe? Serve until the end of your breath. You want that? You're writing on the laptop and then that's it. Say *Yes*. So beautiful. Amen. One more time, tell somebody beside you: "Keep on saying *Yes*."

Next, our preacher. Be blessed by this man: JC Libiran.

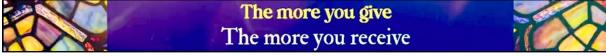




BRO. JC LIBIRAN:

For our talk today, since we are on the series *Thanks-Living*, we are blessed to be a blessing. Last Sunday, we talked about *Grateful Living*. Today, we will talk about *Generous Living*.

And our one big message is this: The more you give, the more you receive.



If you're saying Yes to that, let's give the Lord a big hand.

And my dear friends, just before we sing the Word of God and honor God's message today, let's look at the message of this book by Adam Grant titled *Give and Think*. It's a revolutionary way to approach success.

Grant says that there are three kinds of people in this world:

There are *Takers*, and they are people who just want to receive, receive, and receive.

There are *Matchers*, and their motto is, "You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours."

But there are people who are also called to become *Givers*— giving without expecting something in return.

I want you to ask yourself: In your life, in your family, in your business, in your advocacies, which are you among these three?

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Do We Give Our Best?

You hear sentiments like these: Receiving is all that matters; Get all you can out of life; If you want yours, go earn it yourself; Only the strong survive; What's in it for me?

Even if we are known as a Christian country here in Asia, we are also known as one of the most corrupt countries-- from top to bottom.

I'm sure you've also come across some viral videos of people swallowing money or possibly a driver trying to extort (favor) from a foreigner. It gives a bad taste of us as Filipinos, and of us as Christians.

When you look as well at traffic on the street, are you able to see people giving way for each other? They're not in *beast* mode...Possibly, they're lining up.

But there are people who are cutting lines.

In our family, in our house, maybe some of us are trying to get the best part of the food.

So, it's really a battle between greediness and generosity.

It's up to us, my dear friends, who will win. But by the grace of God, it is possible that generosity will win. Because God has given us the greatest gift of all. And that is His love.

I ask you now, to honor the Word of God:



Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet and a Light unto my path.

Share...

Our study today takes us to Acts 20:35--very short but very powerful:

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

That's why I remember this story:

During the Offertory time in the church, there was this boy reaching out for coins because he was about to put them in the Love Offering basket.

Then, suddenly someone tapped him on his shoulders, and gave him a 100-peso bill.

He was somehow surprised. Why is the man giving him the 100 pesos? So, what he did was he put the cash in the Love Offering basket.

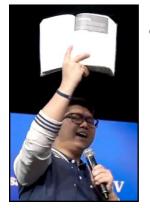
After that, there was a tap again from that same man, and he said, "That was your 100 pesos-- it fell from your pocket."

My dear friends, are we really giving our best-- not just to God, but even to the people that God has entrusted under our care?

St. Paul reminds us in his letter to the Corinthians: "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."

Let's receive God's message today. Take it to heart. Put both of your hands on your heart and say this prayer after me:







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.

"Lord, thank You for Your generous love.

I receive it today.

I want to overflow with Your Love and share this with the world. Amen.

Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet and a Light unto my path.

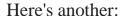
The Generosity Factor

You see, it's also noteworthy to mention that the generosity factor is spread out in the Scriptures. And as we look into this in the Gospel of Mark, about that rich young man asking for counsel at the crossroads: What is it that he must do to have eternal life?

Still, even if the Lord has given him the mission of what to do, he has a difficult time letting go of what he has.

In contrast to that, the poor widow, she has only little money-- but she still gives it to the Lord Pagenese she knows the mon

it to the Lord. Because she knows the money belonged to the Lord.



We look into the parable of the unforgiving servant-- the Gospel of Matthew.

The master has forgiven that servant for all his debts. But we find that this same servant doesn't know how to forgive his fellow servant.

We also look into the parable of the Good Samaritan -- in the Gospel of Luke.

There is a wounded man lying on the road. The first two passing by do not help him. But here comes a Samaritan giving everything to help and restore this person's life.

...We should all receive this truth: That God is the owner of everything.



God is the owner of everything

We need to be reminded that we have a lot of blessings. Yes! But we need to focus on the Blesser. And we know that when we focus on God, everything else will be added unto us.

That's why there's this word in Filipino, *UNLAD: Unahin Natin Lagi Ang Diyos*.

When we put God first, everything else will be added unto us.

Call to Stewardship

We all know what happened in the Creation story. We are reminded that Adam and Eve did not follow God. They disobeyed God.

Still, we are reminded today of our call to stewardship. Everything that we see, that we have, belongs to God.

And we are asked to be stewards, to take care of what God has given us.

So, I want to ask you this question: How are you taking care of everything that God has given you in your life?





How are you taking care of everything God has given you in your life?

We are reminded that the secret to living is *giving*.

Even the poet Maya Angelou said this: "Giving liberates the soul of the giver." Bro. JB Rodriguez even shared this with us in the first talk, *Grateful Living*.

We decide, we choose to be grateful for what has been, what is now, what will be, and what may *not* be.

And that's why I remember Bro. JB and I, together with some young builders years ago, we had a vacation, like a three-day vacation with Bro. Bo and the leaders. And everything was taken care of. All expenses paid. And we were so blessed because we were just *receiving*. Nalibre kami.-- Everything for free.

We realized that it's good to experience these blessings. But what's on the other side-- of us *giving* instead...?

We should provide. We should be the ones donating. The ones supporting those in need. And we dream of doing that.

Gusto mo bang manlibre o magpalibre? Do you want to receive things for free-or be the one to give things for free? We want to experience both, right?

In my life, I can say that after that experience of receiving, giving has come true in my own special ways, little ways. I'm able to become not just blessed but also a blessing to my family, to my friends, to our Feast, and whenever I'm being called to serve outside-- in the content that I do and so on.

Friends, say this with me: "I am blessed to be a blessing."



Pay It Forward

Let me introduce you to one of my mentors who is a philanthropist.

His name is Tony Robbins, and he said this: "It is not what we get but who we become and what we contribute that gives meaning to our lives."

He's not just known for his transformational events, but he's also known for donating to a lot of charities, most especially to this ministry, Feeding America. But you know, looking back, he was not that at the beginning.

There was a time in his life-- when he was a kid-- when they were so poor that he was so hungry. And someone gave them food in a basket at their doorstep. Ever since he experienced that generosity, that love, that blessing, he made the decision that he was going to pay it forward.



You are God's Philanthropist

Give More than what you are expected to receive.

I believe, my dear friends, we don't need billions or millions to become a philanthropist. Because we are all God's philanthropists.

A philanthropist is someone who shares his resources, skills, network, time, money to create a better world. So, don't be caught up in all the glitz and glamour. You are already a philanthropist in your own special way.

For those of you who are into journal-writing-- writing reflections in the Feast Light, or maybe our Light Groups-- I invite you to ask these questions:

For reflection and discussion



- I. How has God been generous in your life?
- 2. How can you be more generous to others?

Generosity Is a Way of Life

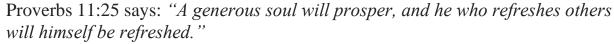
Yes, we are also reminded that generosity is not just an act-- it is a way of life.

So, can you all do this quick exercise with me? Everybody, sit up straight, inhale, exhale. So, see, that's the normal way.

But how about if we do this: Inhale, inhale, inhale...

See? You're having a difficult time already. So, you cannot *take* everything. You need to *give*. And the world needs more givers, more generous people.

When we make a decision to give,







A generous soul will prosper, and he who refreshed others will himself be refreshed.

That's why I like to honor all of our servants here. Can you just give them a round of applause?

Mother Teresa even reminded us that it is not how much we give-- but how much love we put into giving.

Let us not be satisfied with just giving money. Money is not enough. People need your heart to love them. So, spread your love everywhere you go. Even after The Feast, bring love to your home. Bring it into your workplace. Bring it into your business. Bring it to those people who need this the most.

I love the story of the boy who had five loaves and two fish. The food was not enough, yes, but in the hands of God, it became one of the miracle stories.

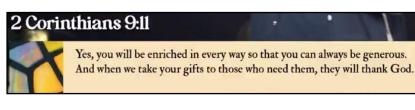
That's why I'm asking you as well, right here, right now: What is it in your hands that God has given you?

Maybe in your own capacity, it's just little. Offer it to the Lord-- just like what Bro. Bo was sharing earlier about Fe giving her all to God-- and they multiplied.

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Four Ways To Live a Generous Life

The second letter of Paul to the Corinthians says: "Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when you take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God." (2 Corinthians 9:11)





Think of this: You won't just ask for answered prayers, but you will be God's answered prayer to the people around you.

Now, let's get practical. Let me share with you now four ways to live a generous life.

1. Be generous with your time. We all know that we are equal when it comes to this. There are 86,400 seconds every day. How are you using the most precious gift of time? Are you using it to advance the Kingdom of God, to advance and pursue the things that matter most to you—your dreams, your aspirations?

Or maybe you are lost in scrolling in social media, to the point that you aren't able to do what you're supposed to do?

I believe, my dear friends, that all of us are challenged now to share and be generous with our time, most especially with the people who matter most to us. You see, if you want to see the value of time, try to visit someone who is dying, wanting to extend his or her life.

In Filipino, oras mo na-- it's already your time. It's your time to grow, it's your time to move on, it's your time to forgive, it's your time to be a blessing to people. That's number one. Be generous with your time.

2. Be generous with your talent. And that's why, my dear friends, I'm standing here in front of you. Not because I'm already, you know, all perfect-- but actually, I'm continuing to harness the gifts, the talents that God has given me. And I'm very grateful for The Feast. Looking back, way back in college, when I started attending The Feast, I aspired just to serve in the Children's Ministry. From the Children's Ministry, I got to serve in the Worship Ministry. After that, in the Campus Missions. And then, eventually, now in Feast building as well.

But I believe my dear friends, it's not just serving in The Feast. Maybe in your own way, how are you developing the gifts and talents that God has given you? Use them. In Filipino, talentado ka-- you have talents.

3. Be generous with your treasure.

And I believe this is not just during the Love Offering time. But being generous with your treasure means intentional thinking, living: "I'm going to continue to share my time, my talent, and my treasure. Not just in The Feast, but even beyond here."

You don't have to go far. Maybe in your home, family members need you. They want to have more time with you, to have more opportunities to spend and create memories with you.

But, of course, we all know that we cannot give to charity if we are a charity case ourselves. No. We cannot give tithes if our budget is tight.

And that's why, Bro. Bo, in his book, *The Abundance Formula*, encourages us to earn our income 100%. You give your all. Use the talent that God has given you. Monetize it. Of course, tithing means we give to God our best, our first fruits. If you cannot do the 10%, you can start with 1%, 2%, 3%.

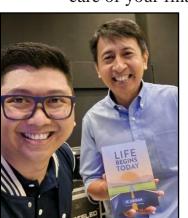
BO SANCHEZ

WHOLEHEARTED

JC LIBIRAN

There are some people who have decided reverse-tithing. They're already giving the majority of what they're earning because that's how good their finances are.

We have savings because we know that we will not always be strong. We need to prepare for our future. We save 20% of our income for the future. Then, for our present expenses, 70%. But normally, what happens, it's a lot of *add-to-carts*, a lot of expenses... Instead of us making o God first, taking care of ourselves... Take care of your finances.



4. Be generous with your testimony.

And that's the message of the book that I'll be launching today, *Life Begins Today: Inspirations and Reflections to Guide Your Way.*

It's my third book. The first one was *Byahe ni*Juan, with the message *Enjoy the Ride of Your Life*. The second book was *Wholehearted: 21 Ways to Live a Courageous Life*. It's about embracing life wholeheartedly.

And finally, here's a challenge now: to live life to the max, with meaning, appreciation-- and extraordinary. It's actually a collection

of my writings. Ten years of my testimony of how God has been faithful in my life. And I believe, my dear friends, you may not be an author or writer, but you have God's story within you. You are capable of sharing that powerful story that people need to hear.

Share your testimony with your friends, family, and eventually, the Lord will use it to bless people.

Give...and Receive

The Lord invites us: Be generous with your time, talent, treasure, and testimony.

My dear friends, you see, when we give these to the people around us, to the people who matter most to us, to where God is calling us-- through the lost, the last, and the least-- we know that we can never outgive God when it comes to generosity.





You can never outgive God when it comes to generosity.

That's why we are reminded in the Gospel of Luke: Give and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap.

The amount you will give will determine the amount you get back. (Luke 6:38).

Luke 6:38



Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap.

The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.

Ask God to bless you. Not just for your own sake.

Not just for the people who you want to benefit from your blessings. But there are people out there who need you-- who need your time, who need your talent, who your treasure, who need your testimony.

And when you give them to the Lord, just like that little boy did, the Lord will use your five loaves and two fish.

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See, look at the Cross: The Lord died not just for Himself. He didn't die like this:



He didn't die just for one person.
He died for all. He died for you, for you, for you— for the salvation of mankind.
You can never outgive God...
Because He paid the ultimate price of sacrifice: with His Love.
God has given you that Eternal Love, that Precious Love.
What will you do with it?

Say *Yes* to being generous, to being a giver. In this world of a lot of takers and matchers, your life will never be the same again.

Let's give the Lord a big hand—a round of applause for Him. Let's come before Him. Let's worship Him today.

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God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

--Matthew 5:7

ANAWIM YEAR 28 PART 4

The Lord Prevails By JOHN RAYMOND FABULARUM

MY favorite Bible verse is Proverbs 19:21: Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.

I am sharing my joyful experience as a donor for our Anawim Home for Abandoned Elderly-- to disciple the logos and lolas. But I must say I really didn't have to plan for a spiritual, or missionary, or discipleship life. God has prevailed upon my life – starting with my name.

Google the meaning of *John* and you'll find out that it's derived from the Hebrew *Yohanan* meaning *graced by God*.

Calling us His children, God has indeed graced us with His Presence, giving us distinction, dignity, honor, favor.

I can say I am indeed graced by God—He has distinctly, lovingly graced my life.

A number of testimonies for this section of *The Feast Family* are from persons receiving the grace of spiritual awakening usually when they were like already teenagers or older.

My spiritual awakening started way back with my parents Virgilio and Susan who are pious Catholics—actively serving in our parish church, the National Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, in Valenzuela City where I was born.



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Catholic Upbringing

My parents were part of the Parish Pastoral Council, and some ministries such as the Lay Minister and World Apostolate of Fatima that promotes the devotion to Our Lady.

At my young age, my parents taught me about Jesus.

They sent me to Catholic schools. For my elementary grades, at the Notre Dame of Greater Manila where I graduated in 2006.

Here I am with Mom Susan and Dad Virgilio.

For high school, also at Notre Dame, 2010. And for college, at De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde, where

I finished Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration – Major in Computer Application in 2014.

I have been exposed to church activities and spiritual formation that have built and continue to deepen my relationship with God and help me to empower other young people.

I started to be involved in and serve in our parish at the young age of 10 as an altar server and I eventually became part of the Parish Commission on Youth.



I'm blessed to be one of the chosen delegates of our country, through the Diocese of Malolos, to the World Youth Day held in Krakow, Poland, in 2016.

Here I am with Rev. Fr. Gener, Chairman of the Diocese Commission on Youth (Diocese of Malolos) and other delegates from all over the world attending the Holy Mass celebrated by Pope Francis at the Campus Misericordiae - Pole Miłosierdzia-ŚDM Brzegi in Poland.

I also joined other faith communities such as The Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals (BCBP) and I was able to attend the Christian Life Program (CLP) sponsored by them... But God had other plans for me.

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Then, the *Light*

At our parish church in Valenzuela City, I found out about the Light of Jesus Family and The Feast.

Since our parish church is named after Our Lady of Fatima, our fiesta is every May 13—the anniversary of the apparition

of Mary, Our Lady, to three shepherd children—Lucia, 9, and her cousins Francisco, 8, and his sister Jacinta,6—in the Fatima village in Portugal in 1917.

In 2014, during our parish celebration of the Feast Day of Our Lady of Fatima, a group led us to Worship and Praise, so powerful—and new, yet impressive to me. The name of the group: The Feast Valenzuela.

Yes, that was the first time I heard about The Feast and the faith community that established it, the Light of Jesus Family.



Again, by Divine Design, I would find out that an aunt, Tita Jane Maranan, is active in The Feast Mall of Asia.

Here, with my Tita and Bro. Audee Villaraza who I would eventually meet as God led me to The Feast Bay Area where he is the Builder.

Here's my grace-filled journey:

In 2021, the time of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID) Pandemic, *live* gatherings were not allowed -- to prevent the spread of the deadly disease. So, The Feast held online gatherings.

In December 2021, Tita Jane invited me to join a two-day online retreat organized by The Feast Bay Area (Feast at Home Bay Area as it was called that time) and also sometimes called Feast PICC because it holds its gatherings at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) at the Manila Bay Area.



A New Beginning

That December season in 2021, I was lost, confused, depressed, and felt unworthy because of my past life. So, I decided to attend the Feast Bay Area online retreat even though I didn't know anyone there.

All I needed was to recharge my mental and spiritual health. I needed God.

No regrets. It was awesome! I'd been attending so many retreats before but I found this one incredible. They were able to organize and achieve the objectives virtually. What is so impressive about it? I was able to feel the Presence of God in the place of the unknown with unexpected people, and where all you can do is to surrender yourself to God wholeheartedly-- and believe in His promise to transform you into a new beginning.

"You make all things new." One of my favorite lines from one of the songs of The Feast Worship.

Indeed, I've been restored and I've learned to value and love my life once again.

The Feast: Live!

By 2022, the Pandemic somehow began to subside. So, The Feast Bay Area announced a *live*, face-to-face Grand Easter Feast, to be held at the PICC Plenary Hall April 17, 2022.

I attended – alone—the very first time I came to a Feast. And I got a chance to meet Bro. Bo Sanchez in person. It was amazing. This was



Here I am with Bro. Bo

I've since been attending The Feast Bay Area led by Bro. Audee Villaraza. *Here*, my first ever Feast session.



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Then, a Home

Soon, I heard about the Anawim Home for Abandoned Elderly for the first time-- of course, from Bro. Bo Sanchez.

In one of his talks at The Feast Bay Area, he shared the experience that led him to establish the Foundation.

In 2022, LOJ held The Feast Conference, a spiritual learning event, at the SMX Convention Center Manila, and again, I heard about the Anawim in one of the talks.

Curious, I did some research about Anawim. I saw the pictures—the lolos and the lolas having meals together... enjoying fellowships... one looking out the door as if waiting for a loved one to come and visit...another simply lying in bed...

And these so touched my heart that I was then praying that someday, I may be able to visit Anawim too, to donate and do charity works for those abandoned

elderly. And praise God! I've been able to!

One blessed day, I was just in Anawim to give my humble financial donation.

But prior to that, I was able to attend the Grand Feast at PICC Plenary Hall in the morning.

I came with some relatives to fellowship and sponsor a meal for the elderly. I meekly asked help from the Anawim staff through their Admin assistant, Ms. Jinky, to prepare and cook delicious food.

All were satisfied and enjoyed the blessings from God.

What's joyful for me was getting to sit and talk with some lolos and lolas and sharing some life stories with them.



Here I am with my cousins, from my left: Hermie C. Matti, Annie Casumpang, and Annalyn C. Viñas

One bonus: We also got to explore the resort-like villas, the lush Anawim gardens, inhale the fresh, clean air.

Before we left this wonderful place, I gave each one of the elderly, as well as the Anawim staff, a gift—a luminous holy rosary with a short prayer sheet attached to it.

Unexpected Blessings

As goes the jargon-- yet true: God would not be outgiven. What I humbly gave, I've received back with unexpected blessings: a well-spent out-of-town birthday celebration with my family (Thank God for giving us good weather!), and surprise happy greetings from friends; priceless good health; job promotion; financial stability.

I've received great blessings from
The Feast: More friends through
my Light Group (Caring Group)
and a fulfilling service to God as member
of The Feast Bay Area Production Ministry.



My happy family, *from left:* Madonna Burgos-Fabularum, my sister-in-law; her husband, Dan Ralston, my eldest brother; Mom Susan with Denzel Nathan, son of Dan and Madonna; Dad Virgilio with Lucas, son of my sister Regine; yours truly; Regine and husband Kevin Karl Obispo.









Serving joyfully, clockwise from top

left: with my Production Team; that's me placing the podium onstage for the preacher; our team first time on Facebook *live;* huddling to coordinate our tasks.

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Discipleship Mission

Joining The Feast has been a truly life-changing decision for me. It continues to deepen my faith and strengthen my relationship with God. It has given me a clearer vision of my life's purpose and direction.

Attending The Feast session every Sunday, which includes Holy Mass, powerful Worship, and inspiring talks, makes me feel truly blessed.



What's more, The Feast inspires me to bless others the best I can. I said at the start of this sharing that I did not plan a missionary life, serving others, making disciples for the Lord.

But as promised in Proverbs 19:21, it is the LORD's purpose that prevails. Remember, in Matthew 28:19, our Lord Jesus has mandated us to Go and make disciples of all men — which is the core mission our Light of Jesus Family has embraced.

What's in a Name

I think God has early on distinctly planned for me to make disciples—starting with my second name, *Raymond*.

Online definitions of *Raymond* say that it is from Germanic words *counsel* and *protection*. Isn't it that's we do when we are making disciples? We teach, counsel persons to follow Jesus. And we protect, wrap them in prayers that they may choose and remain to be His disciples.

These are just my musings as I write this sharing. But I pray, I trust that God also prevails about what my surname connotes. Again, checking out online definitions, I found out my surname *Fabularum* is an inflection of *fabula*, meaning *fable*. And fables give a lesson or moral to the reader.

If someone picked up a lesson in this, my sharing, then, indeed, *not* what's in my mind, or my heart really matters. *But it is the Lord's purpose that prevails*.



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@kerygmafamily.com

Website:https://kerygmafamily.com Telephone Numbers: 8725-9999/

Fax 725-1230

Our Partner Beneficiaries

Jeremiah 33 Foundation is a shelter for minor girls particularly victims



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



CARES

of sexual abuse.

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

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

Founder: Bo Sanchez

Mercy Ministries Chairman

Hermie Morelos

Editor-in-ChiefCynthia U. Santiago

Chief Photographer Edmundo L. Santiago

Feast International

Region HeadVic Español

Reporter-WriterCybill P. Bayto

Multimedia Staff

Ronaldo Antonio U. Santiago Dylan Anthony A. Santiago

Media Ministries Head

Randy Borromeo

Contributors

The Feast Builders

Finance Officer

Rowena Cequeña

Publication Consultant

Chelle S. Crisanto

Human Resources Manager

Erika Ventura









For comments, article contributions, write or call us:

Email Address: cusantiago@gmail.com

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

Mobile phone: 0998-953-0657

Go and make disciples of all men.

— Matthew 28:19