



FAMILY

FEBRUARY 11, 2024

The Feast Is a Place of Miracles



HAVE you noticed? Some people don't like the idea of church.

I cannot count the number of times I've heard people tell me, "Bo, I'd rather talk to God *alone*. No interruptions from annoying people!"

I won't disagree that you must have one-on-one conversations with God. Jesus said we're supposed to pray in private (see Matthew 6:6).

But for some reason, God thinks this is *not* enough.

Because *church is God's idea*. Not mine nor yours. But His.

And those interruptions from annoying people? They're holy interruptions. And those irritating people are what will make us more loving.

During Pentecost, the Holy Spirit birthed the Church. House churches started happening. (In our language, *Feast Lights* and *Light Groups*.) Since that time, early Christians met each week to pray together, break bread, and listen to God's Word.

Two thousand years later, we're still doing this at *The Feast*.

Let's unpack this today.

Have a Love-filled Feast today!

May your dreams come true,

Bo Sanchez

WELCOME
to our Feast Talk series
TABLE TALKS:
Community Recipes of Love
Talk 5: *Church Is God's Idea*



Let Us Begin...

YES, today we begin. Begin what? Learning how we practice our Faith. Well, yes, that's what *The Feast Family* has all the while been talking about.

But today, we learn what to learn about our spirituality-- or lack of it?-- as we read the Homily of Fr. Albert Garong last Feast Sunday, February 4, *page 3*.



Today, we will also begin to learn about The Feast. Yes, we know already The Feast. But our Feast Talk today is about The Feast, the church we are building. Bro. Bo Sanchez introduces the Talk, *page 1*.

Speaking of church, when or where did all our churches begin? Last Sunday, Bro. Audee Villaraza took us on a walk where it all happened. Hint, the title of the Talk is *Damascus Road. Flashback* starts on *page 17*.



Bro. Nico Narvaez, introducing our *Love Offering* section, brings us way back to ages before Damascus. Yes, where it all started-- at the Garden of Eden-- where the idea of giving began, *page 9*.



And speaking of beginnings, we continue to learn how Persons Deprived of Liberty are learning how to begin a new life -- in Part 4 of The Prison Mission in our *Mercy Ministries* section, *page 31*.



Yes, wherever we are in our Faith journey, let's stop today. Let's begin...

All for God's Glory,

Randy Borromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director





FLASHBACK!

FEBRUARY 4, 2024

Holy Mass



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Homily

REV.FR. ALBERT GARONG

on the Gospel Mark 1: 29-39

Excerpts:

GOOD MORNING, Everyone!

First of all, I'd like to congratulate all of you. You are all champions. Why? I'd like to congratulate all of you for surviving the first 96 days of 2024. January felt long. Right? Was your January easy? It looks like too much going on. And we're all getting by, much still alive. Amen.

And that really resonates with what our Gospel teaches today. Our Gospel is going down to the basics. It presents a lot of difficulties and shadows-- people who are sick, people who are possessed by demons. And all problems in between-- a mention of mother-in-law included. Joke☺.

But see, all these problems... The Gospel, although it tends to focus on the dark things that are very common to us human beings, actually presents lessons on how to go through and survive and win over said challenges.

The FEAST FAMILY February 11, 2024 **3**

Lessons from the Gospel

First: Pray. The Gospel begins with what? Coming from the synagogue. The synagogue is like their church. So where did Jesus come from? Church. Reading Scripture. Reflecting on the Word of God. Prayer.

And then He performs other tasks. Then what happens again? Jesus leaves to a deserted place-- to pray. He has a lot of things to focus on. And a lot of things to do. But He sees that in His life, there is a consistent practice of prayer. It is never gone, no matter how terribly busy He gets.

And there you have the first answer: When you're like, "Lord, I'm barely keeping up. Lord, I'm about to fall apart... Life is difficult..." The first answer?

Jesus shows us by example: to maintain prayer. Not pray just once. Not pray just when you need help. But maintain a habit of prayer. Make prayer a non-negotiable part of your life, of your every day.

You say, "Father, sometimes, it's had to pray."

I said that once to my spiritual director: "Father, it's so hard to pray."

He said, "Well, then, *pray*." That's just it.

What is the answer to the lack of desire to pray? *Pray*.

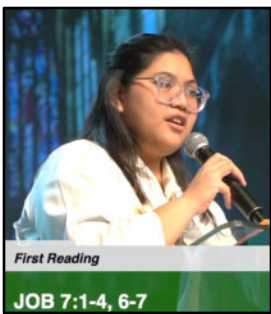
There's no loophole, Brothers and Sisters, I'm sorry to tell you. I wish I could tell you that you just eat your feelings instead of praying. I'm guilty of that sometimes. But no.

Prayer is the most essential. If we're not praying, we're not church. If you're not praying, you're not a Christian. No matter how many Masses you attend-- but if you're not really *there*, you're not a Christian.

Prayer is our defining act as followers of Jesus. We pray because Jesus prays. We are the Body of Christ. So, if Jesus prays, we pray. That's one thing.



First Reading: Job 7: 1-4, 67



Job spoke, saying: Is not man's life on earth a drudgery? Are not his days those of hirelings? He is a slave who longs for the shade, a hireling who waits for his wages. So, I have been assigned months of misery, troubled nights have been allotted to me. If in bed I say, "When shall I arise?" then the night drags on; I am filled with restlessness until the dawn. My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle; they come to an end without hope. Remember that my life is like the wind; I shall not see happiness again.



Second: Love. Prayer must always transfer to our capacity to love. Always.

It's not instant. I know. Sometimes, you already prayed but you're still angry. You already had a Rosary but you're still seething with anger over that boss or client, over your daughter who won't listen to you, or your friend who won't listen to your advice and keeps falling for the wrong guy.

But still, again, it's not one time. You have to make it a part of your life-- that prayer enhances your capacity to love. And that always transfers to action.

Jesus *acts*. After the synagogue, He heals Peter's mother-in-law. Because He knows that Peter will be a better disciple if He helps him with this pressing domestic problem of the sickness of his beloved mother-in-law.

Jesus heals the sick and exorcises demons. All of these in a simple way He loves. And He serves. And He acts on the situations He can act on.

Prayer. Love. They always follow and go together.

Third: Give. But give what?

Give Jesus. Evangelize. The Second Reading says: "Woe is me, if I do not preach."

You might say, "Not *me*. I'm not a preacher. Father, you're the one. That's your job, not mine. That's Bro. Audee's job later, not mine.

But giving Jesus is not just preaching. It should be our desire. Because you make Jesus a part of your life through prayer. Because you feel Him and encounter Him every time you love. And you love Jesus more. Then the natural result of that is that you would want others to also experience Jesus.



Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9: 16-19, 22-23

Brothers and Sisters: If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast, for an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it! If I do so willingly, I have a recompense, but if unwillingly, then I have been entrusted with a stewardship. What then is my recompense? That, when I preach, I offer the gospel free of charge so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. Although I am free in regard to all, I have made myself a slave to all as to win over as many as possible. To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak. I have become all things to all, to save at least some. All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may have a share in it.

Identifying Attributes

So, when I say, “Woe to me if I don’t preach, woe to me if I don’t share Jesus,” it’s not good.

Because God will punish you if you don’t. Because it should naturally come out of you-- that desire to share what has blessed you so much. Isn’t it that if you had a delicious steak in a restaurant, you post that right away?

Because you want to share that good news with others: “This place is good. Eat here.”

You discover an artist you’ve never heard before, and he’s good.

So, you’re like, “Guys, I share this. I want you to be blessed by this beautiful song that I found.”



Why don’t we do the same for Jesus? If Jesus had loved you so much and blessed you so much, it would naturally come out of you.

So, Pray, Love, and Give Jesus.

But as a final note, remember these three, as I have been mentioning, are not separate. They’re always together.

If you’re doing it right, they merge into one. Your work becomes prayer.

Your prayer becomes work. Your time in the office becomes time for evangelization and mission.

You’re working for the mission and giving Jesus helps you connect with Him more.

And it keeps going on and on, and on. They feed on each other, and they build on each other.



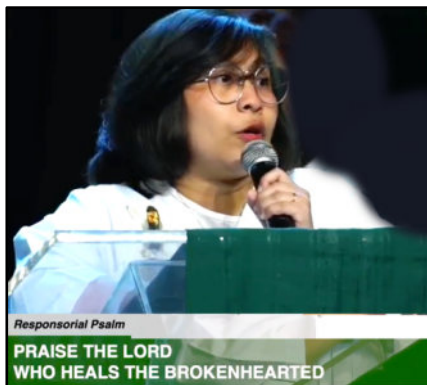
So, just keep on building it. I know it seems much. But we all start somewhere And the good news is that you are part of the Church: Praying, Loving, Giving Jesus... It's not just the role of the individual. It is the role of the entire Church. We are in this together.

So, the hope, and the prayer, is that in the times you can't pray because you are part of the Church, you will be surrounded by people who can pray with you and pray for you.

If you can't love, there will be people around you who can love you and love with you, and help you love others.

If you can't give Jesus now, there will be people who will encourage you. And maybe speak on the times you can't step up for Jesus.

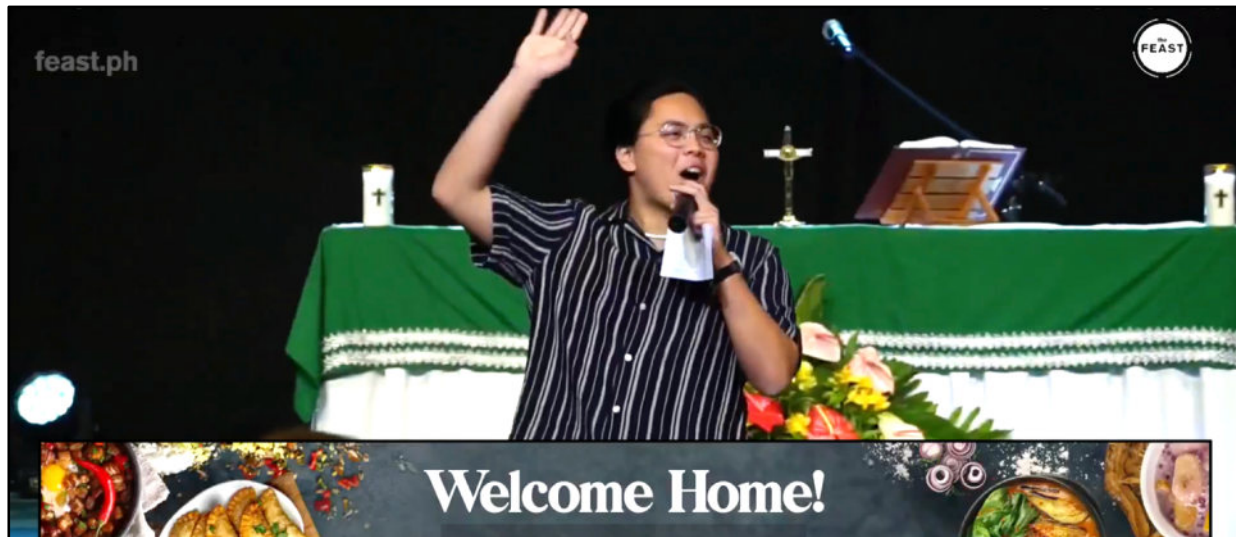
If it feels overwhelming, remember this is our project-- *our*. As a priest, I can't do this alone. I need all of you. We need each other. We cannot do this alone. It is our project as the Body of Christ, the Church.



So, my dear Brothers and Sisters, as we do this Mass, and as we feed ourselves with the real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, I hope we can build on these identifying attributes:

Pray. Love. Give Jesus.
Amen.

The FEAST FAMILY February 11, 2024 7



BRO. NICO NARVAEZ: GOOD MORNING, Feast!

I want to start by greeting our first-timers. Now, here's what we're going to do. For all of us who have been at The Feast a couple of times, find the first-timer nearest to you, and at the top of your voice, say, "Welcome Home!"

That's just the first part.

The second part, say, "Welcome Home, Yo-yo-yo."

That dance is from *TikTok*. If you don't know *TikTok*, ask your great-grandchildren about it 😊.

You know, January was so long. And it was so cold. January is done. It's already February. So, let's great our February Birthday celebrators, "Happy Birthday! Yo-yo-yo! Yo-yo-yo-yo-yo!"



Love Offering

So, I want to go to our giving.

There are many ways to give. There are many reasons we give. We want to support our Mercy Ministries-- Anawim, Grace To Be Born. Or, we just give because January was so good. God blessed us so much, we just want to give back the blessings.

But here's the thing: There's this one reason-- one reason-- that really tagged my heart, really spoke to my heart. Here's the reason:

In the Bible, we read that God always partners with us humans, right? God always collaborates with us humans.

For example, in *Genesis*, God asked Adam and Eve to cultivate the land, to take care of the Garden of Eden.

In the story of Noah, God created the Universe. Why did He ask Noah to build an ark? He should just have given him an ark. No. God wanted to collaborate with him.

God wants to partner with us humans. He practically doesn't need us but he wants us to help Him because He wants to partner with us. So, when we get our envelopes, I want our hearts to be in a position that we're giving not just because "Well, it's required." We're giving because this is us. This is a symbol of us collaborating with God, partnering with God to build His Church, to build His Kingdom.



Help the Feast Mercy Ministries. Help them all.

 Anawim Lay Missions Foundation, Inc.	 Grace to be Born Maternity Home and Nursery	 He Cares Foundation Street Children Caring Center	 Jeremiah 33:6-7 Foundation	 Pagasa ng Pamilya Scholarship Foundation
 LOJ Prison Ministry	 LOJ Pastoral Care Center	 HAIL Mary of Abra	 Jesus Christ Cares for Cancer	 Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation, Inc.

Receive Feast Magazine e-copy when you subscribe to monthly giving of Php 500.00. Visit us at the lobby!





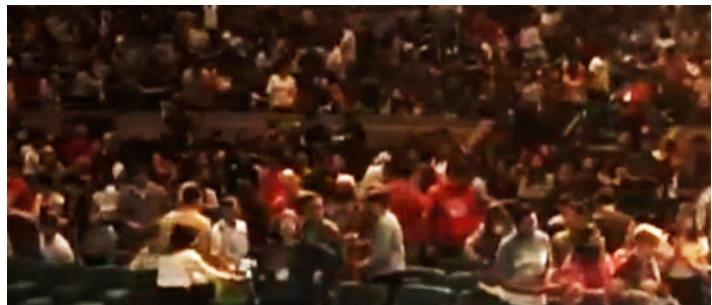
	Ways to Give		 UnionBank	The Builder of the Light of Jesus Family Mega Manila Feast Bay Area, Inc. 000-4000-24846
	Ways to Give		 BDO	Light of Jesus Family Mega Manila, Inc. 003970143807
	Ways to Give		 GCash 	For GCash, Debit & Credit Card Giving visit: www.TheFeastPICCAM.com/Commit

So, may you raise your offering as high as you can, as high as the sky as we pray:

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

Father, this giving, this tithe that we will give, is just a blessing that You already gave us. Not even ours in the first place. This giving, Lord, came from You and we just want to give it back to You, back to Your Church. Because we want to partner with You. We want to co-build this Feast with You. We want to co-build our church with You-- on Earth, as it is in Heaven. In Jesus' mighty Name. Amen.

With smiles, we give to God today!



Worship!

EXHORTATION

BRO. RYAN NABUS:

HALLELUJAH! Let's all gather around the table of Worship. Let's all be in the Presence of our Lord today.

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

Lord, we glorify You. We give You praise. And we lift Your Name today.

Wherefore, God elevated Him to the place of highest honor and gave Him the Name of above every other name that at the Name of Jesus every knee shall bow in Heaven and under the Earth and every tongue shall declare that Jesus Christ is Lord with the Glory of God the Father.-- Philippians 2: 9-11

With family, we continue to declare the glory, the majesty of the King of all kings, the Name above all other names. His Name is Jesus.





THE SPLENDOR OF A KING



CLOTHED IN MAJESTY



THE GODHEAD THREE IN ONE



FATHER SPIRIT AND SON



YOU ARE WORTHY OF ALL PRAISE



MY HEART WILL SING



HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD



FEAST BAY AREA WORSHIP

HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD

CHRIS TOMLIN
WORDS & MUSIC BY CHRIS TOMLIN, ED CASAL, JESSE REEVES
© 2004 RISING SPRINGS MUSIC, VAMPORE PUBLISHING; WORSHIP TOGETHER.COM SONGS;
WONDERFULLY MADE SONGS
CCLI #: 4348399

Declare Your Dream!

BRO. AUDEE VILLARAZA:

Let's give a clap offering to our God. Give Him the praise that He deserves.

King Jesus is here today. Do you believe that? As a spiritual family, I want us to do something different this morning.

May I ask you to do this with me? Not just the attendees but also the servants. whoever you are, I want this to be done by our Family. I want you to pick one partner. If you're in the group, that's okay. But if you notice that there's one person in the group who doesn't have a partner, include him/her in your group.

You already have a partner? Okay.

Here's what I want you to do. For the next one minute, I want you to answer this question in one sentence and share it with your partner.

Here's the question: What is your greatest dream for 2024?

Answer in one sentence only. Ready, set, go!

Okay. I'm assuming everyone should be done by now.

All right. Here's the second thing that you do: I want you now to silently pray for your partner's dream.

How did that feel? Did it feel good? Were you able to pray for your partner?



What God Wants

Now, I want you to know this.

Two reasons I asked you to do this exercise:

First: I wanted you to pray for the other person simply for you to know you're not just praying for yourself. Because all of us have dreams. Yes.

You told your partner about your dream but from this moment on, I want you to know that there are other people also praying for your dream.

Second, and I want you to believe this with all your heart:

I wanted you to name your dream, to declare your dream out loud to the other person for two reasons:

First reason: I want you to believe that God can bless your dream. He *can* bless you. Do you believe that? Do you believe that God *can* bless you with that dream-- even if it's impossible? Because God's specialty is impossibility-- those you think God can't do. Because God *can*.

Second reason: I want you to declare that God *wants* to bless you. He really does. He *wants* to give you that dream. He *wants* you to dream big dreams.

So, we want to declare that in the Presence of God. That He is a great God. That's why we worship Him. Because He's a great God. He's a good God. He does not just look down on us-- but He listens to us.

So, may we sing that one more time? In the Presence of our God, put forward our dreams and faith that He is a good God. He is a great God. And He deserves our praise today. Come on, our church, sing this with me...





Blessings

How many of you are blessed that you are here today? Touch as many persons as you can and tell them, “God is here.”

I don’t know about you but this feels like Heaven right now, with the fog and everything...

Let’s thank our Worship Team-- Ryan Nabus, all the singers, and the band. Can you thank the servants as well who serve you in the background with the slides and making sure that you’re comfortable in your chairs?

Ah, the people who pray for you. Praise God.

You know, today, while we celebrate here at the Feast in the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), I want you to know this, to keep this in your prayers as well:

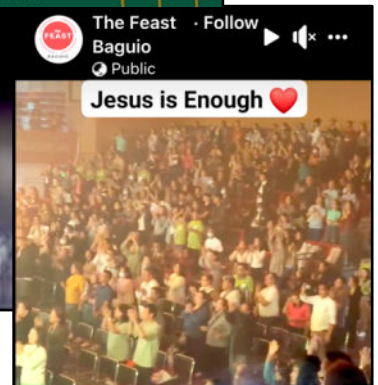
That there are other people also celebrating Feasts all over the world. But there is one big event that we have as a Community.



web.facebook.com/FeastBayArea/videos/3674760106177166



https://web.facebook.com/feastbaguio/?_rdc=1&_rdr



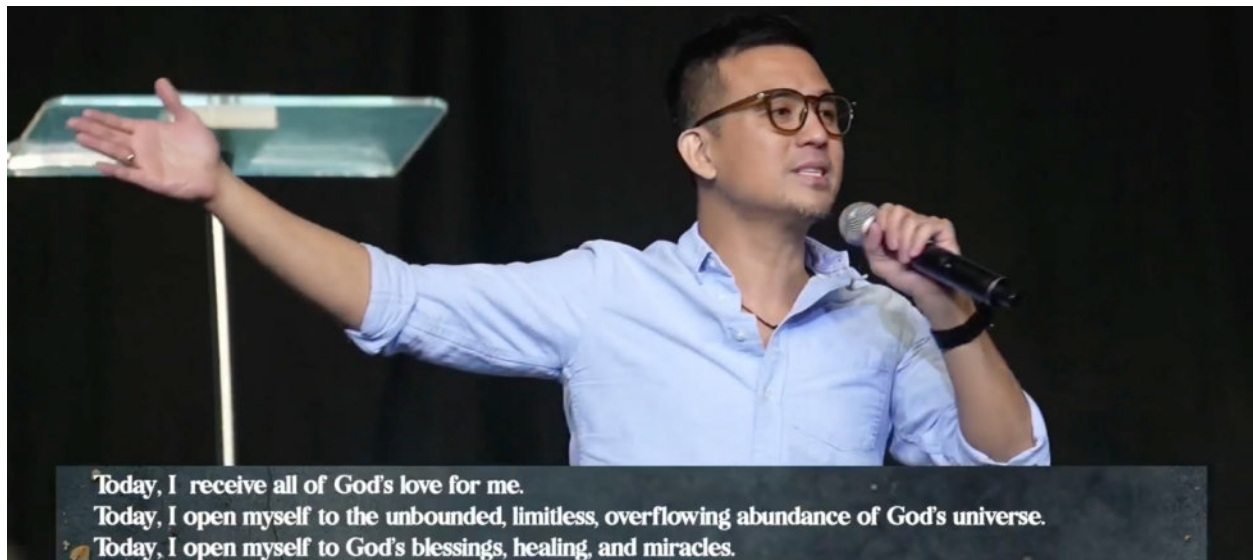
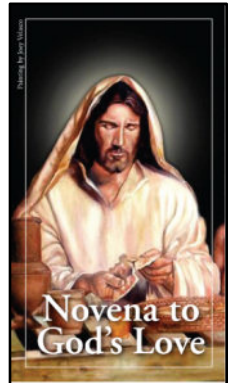
We have Feast Conference for the first time in Baguio.

And so while we’re here, learning about God, other people up north are also being blessed. Bro. Bo Sanchez, Bro. Alvin Barcelona, Bro. Arun Gogna, and other leaders are there blessing so many people.

Because the Feast Community is growing. And guess what? You’re part of this Family. You’re part of this movement that God is doing.

NOVENA TO GOD'S LOVE DECLARATION OF ABUNDANCE

Right now, as a family, we want to do this together. Put out your *Novena to God's Love* booklet or the digital copy on your phone. If you put your dreams in this booklet, we're going to declare this together in the Presence of our Lord, together in one voice:



Today, I receive all of God's love for me.
Today, I open myself to the unbounded, limitless, overflowing abundance of God's universe.
Today, I open myself to God's blessings, healing, and miracles.



Today, I open myself to God's Word so I become more like Jesus every day.
Today, I proclaim that I am God's Beloved. I am God's Servant. I am God's Powerful Champion.
And I am blessed, I am blessing the world. In Jesus' name. Amen

Talk



Friends, this is the Word of God. It's alive and it's active. And if you allow the Lord to speak, He is going to speak to you over whatever situation that you have. And I know you've got a situation that needs wisdom, that needs guidance.

And so, we pray: *Lord, that You will speak today through this message.*

Let's all sing together: *Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet
and a Light unto my path.*

Let me just lay down the foundation of our Talk. We are in Talk 4 of our series called *Table Talks*. We are talking about the beauty of our Spiritual Community, The Feast, to which you belong. Whether you like it or not, you're part of this spiritual family. We've been telling you about the uniqueness of our Community.

Today, the title of our Talk is *Damascus Road*.

There is this 500-year-old chismis-- gossip-- about a debate that is still talked about to this day. You've probably heard this at least once in your life.

And it's about a very strange topic-- about this question: How is a person saved?

How is a person saved?

You might say, "Bro. Audee, so deep question, so early in the morning."

Well, this is not your regular Sunday lunch topic, you know, with your fellow gossips☺.

The FEAST FAMILY February 11, 2024 17



This Topic Is Very Deep

The reason I need to bring this out is I think the problem with a lot of us Christians-- I included-- is that we're so at home in this world. Do you agree with me? We're so at home in this world that we forget that this is not our permanent home.

Our permanent home is with God and so, we need to talk about topics like this: How do you save your soul?

There are many, a few schools of thought, that would answer this question. But I'll give you the two most common ones.

People say that you can be saved by faith. That's one thought. Other people would say that you can be saved by good works. By good deeds.

But because we're Catholics, I'll share with you our Catholic belief-- our stand on this issue: How we are saved.

St. Paul teaches us this:
That we are saved by grace.

From Ephesians 2:8-9:

St. Paul teaches us that salvation is a result of grace and not of good works.

Ephesians 2:8-9 NLT

God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

Paul was saying you cannot earn salvation by your good deeds alone. It's only by the grace of God that you are saved. And that is true. But it's not the complete picture. It's true that God saves you by His grace. You cannot earn it.

But here's the thought: Does it mean that if I give my life to Jesus, if I say that He is my Lord and my Savior, starting right now, I'm saved?

Yes. That's true.

So, does it mean that I can go home and kill my very annoying neighbor-- but still be saved? It doesn't make sense...

What Grace Does

That's true: Grace saves you. But that's not the only thing that grace does.

Grace also *transforms* you. It makes you into a better person. That's what grace does.

So, Grace is not just this gift that comes from God just so He can rescue you. But it doesn't stop there.



When you think about the life of Jesus, that's what He embodied.

Jesus did not do good things just so He could go viral on Instagram.

He didn't do good things just so He could gain sponsors or gain followers. No.

Jesus did good things. Why?

Because He was a good person.

It was in His DNA.

And let me remind you right now-- just in case you've forgotten: That goodness is also in your operating system.

When God created you, He created you in His image and likeness.

But the problem is, what happened? Over time, the world installed all these malware and viruses in your operating system and now you're corrupted in some areas in your life.

What is my prayer? My prayer is that God will restart you and reboot you in 2024-- so you can get rid of all these things that do not belong to God.

Because you are created in goodness.

I want you to remember that-- that God's grace saves you. But it also changes you to make you into the good person that He designed you to begin with.



Hands of God and Adam
from the painting
of Michelangelo Buonarroti

God's Gift

So, here's my big message for today.
Here's what I want you to take home:

Everything is Grace. All that you are right now-- that's Grace. Your family beside you? That's Grace.

Is there anybody here named Grace? I'm not talking about you, ha☺.

I'm talking about the Grace of God.
Everything is Grace.

Your life is a gift from God. That's the Grace of God flowing in your life.

Your job. You might work for that company but that's a gift from the Lord.

Your health. You might be the one going to the gym regularly. But that's a gift from the Lord. God gives you the energy. Because everything is Grace.

Let us pray right now:

Father, You are at work right now. We don't really need anything to earn Your love. We already have it. We don't need to earn salvation. You've already given it through Your Son Jesus Christ. And all we need to do is simply open our arms to receive it wholeheartedly and absolutely. And we believe that when we do that, our life will change. We will be saved. But more so, we will become more like Your Son Jesus-- to be like Him, to love like Him, to serve like Him. And that's what we want today, Lord.

I pray that You transform every life in this corner of the room, in that virtual space, to those listening on the other side of the screen, that You would bless them as well. And that today, You would make us feel how much You love us. Thank You for Your Grace that abounds in our life. We do not deserve this. But still, You give it to us. And for that, we are eternally grateful.

Bless us today. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

My Friends, one more time,
lift your hands and give honor to the Lord:

Let's give the Lord a big hand, Everybody!
Let's worship Him and glorify Him today! Hallelujah!



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

A Simple Story

May I start my message today with a simple story?

Who among you loves to play basketball?

Many, many years ago, I was playing basketball with my regular group of friends. Usually, from time to time, there would be somebody invited to play a game with us.

Now, one time, there was this random guy who came into the court, and none of us knew who he was.

So, we were thinking, “Who is he?”

He came in strong. With a great aura, and you notice him right away. Why?

Number 1, he was wearing the new Nike Kobe 6 shoes.

Now for those of you who do not know basketball, this pair of shoes (named after iconic American basketball player Kobe Bryant) was the Holy Grail of basketball shoes at that time because it was so expensive. It’s the kind you’d just put in a glass case-- because it’s expensive.

But this guy, he was wearing it!

To top it all, he was also wearing the Kobe uniform-- number 24 (Kobe’s number).

And he had that swagger. He walked in like he knew the game.

So, all of us were excited because this guy had the looks-- he looked the part.

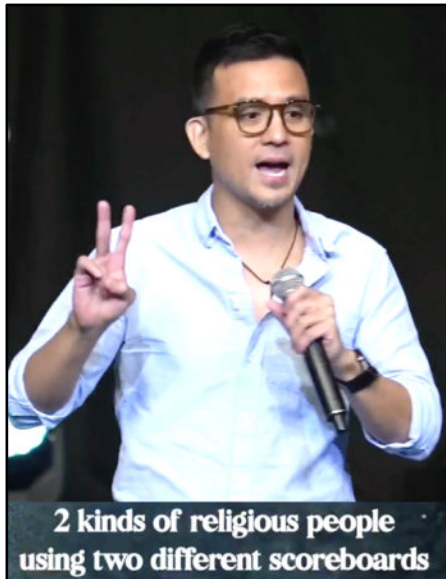
And the moment the rubber hit the floor, something crazy happened.

All of a sudden, this guy started fumbling the ball. He tried to shoot but made no shot. He kept on turning over the ball. It was a terrible game for that guy.

So, when we got together, afterward, we were laughing.

Then he was introduced to us. And we got to talk. And to our shock... You know what we found out? It was only his second time to play basketball.





Two Ways How We Think We're Winning

What's the point of my story? My point is this: Sometimes, there are people like that in the world-- *puro porma lang*.

They dress up just for appearances.

Here's the funny thing: He admitted it -- that he's a newbie.

We said, "Wow, we thought you knew how to play basketball-- you're wearing Kobe 6 shoes, Number 24-- we were thinking you were going to score 61 in this game!"

And he said, "No, no. I dress up like this because I still don't know how to play basketball.

Because I still don't know how, I resort to dressing up for appearances. So, even if I don't win the game, at least in the way I look, I'm already a winner."

You know, sometimes, I feel like we do the same thing in our spiritual life.

Like we have the wrong scorecard when we think of our relationship with the Lord. Just like that guy. His scorecard was his passion. So, to him, he won.

But for us, sometimes, I think when it comes to our spiritual journey, we have two different kinds of scorecards-- how we think we are winning in this game. You know, running the race towards the Lord. I'll give you the two types of scorecards.

1. Based on Law

Your relationship with God is based on Law. So, you have mastered the Ten Commandments. And your relationship with the Lord is based on how well you follow His commandments. How well you obey the Lord.

I'm talking about people whose relationship with the Lord is based on law. They are not bad people.

The problem is, when your relationship with the Lord is based only on following the Commandments, sometimes, you care only about the Law, more than you care about the intention of the Law.

So, God gave all these Commandments, you've memorized them, you know them in your head, but you don't really know them in your heart.

And there's one person who was like this. It's St. Paul.

Offender of the Faith

Paul was one of the greatest defenders of the Faith. He wrote 13 books in the New Testament alone. Paul was the one who wrote the Epistles. He wrote the Letters. He was the one who built churches around Europe and Asia.

But hear this out: Before Paul was the greatest defender of the Church, he was named Saul-- who was the greatest *offender* of the Faith. He was the one who was persecuting Jewish Christians left and right. Why?

Because he believed with all of his heart that what he was doing-- to persecute these Christians-- was a mandate coming from Above.

It says in Acts 9:1-13:

Acts 9:1-3 NIV
"Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem."

So, you see, Paul was a student of the Law. He knew the Law. But here's the problem with Saul at that time. He was so zealous about the Law that to him, people who were actually following Jesus were offenders of the Faith.

This is the problem when you're zealous. You think that everything written there, according to your interpretation, is a message from the Lord, the Will of the Lord-- and you're going to push that agenda to other people.

You know who are like this? The terrorists. They'll kill people. They'll murder people, and then they'll say, "God told me to do it. This is the Will of the Lord."

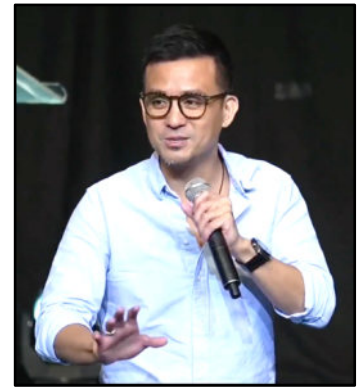
You see that disordered reality? In your head, you think you're doing good but in reality, you're not really following the Lord.

Saul, we read, was persecuting Jewish Christians. Why? Because they were not like him.

You know, when we become so rigid with our faith that we're only naming all the laws and we're only naming all the regulations -- you know what's going to happen? We're going to be a community of condemnation-- no longer a community of love. Why?

Because for you to enter our community, you should have memorized our *Novena to God's Love*. You should know the *Glory Be to the Father*. You should have memorized all these prayers. We would have become such a rigid community where policies would be more important than people.

And that's not what we're about.



We're a Community of Love

We accept anybody who doesn't fit into any group. And we'll welcome you here. Because that's what we experienced. That even though we were broken, The Feast, this Community, accepted us. Because that's what God does.

He accepts the broken people

Talking about Paul, he even boasted. Before he got converted, he was so proud of what he was doing. Listen to this:



Galatians 1:14 NIV

"I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors."

Philippians 3:4-6 NIV

"If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless."

This is what happens when you have spiritual pride. Spiritual pride is when you think that you are more righteous and the person beside you is so sinful. The moment you get into The Feast, you judge everyone around you.

You're like:

"Look at her, always singing even if she's out of tune."

"That guy, always looking at the teleprompter-- whoa, he has not memorized the lyrics?"

"Here's one, not closing his eyes during Worship..."

Well, neither are you. Your eyes are wide open because you're observing everyone.

Sometimes, we're so judgmental towards people-- just because they don't fit our kind of faith. And we look down on them.

Be careful. That's what the Pharisees did. They thought they were protecting their faith-- but they did not know that they were killing the Messenger of God Himself.

One of our ugliest habits, sometimes, when we have spiritual pride, we like pointing fingers at people who are broken -- but we're so blind to our own brokenness.

The Second Way of Winning

There was a woman who went to her doctor and she said, “Doc, there are so many pains in my body. Whenever I touch my head, it hurts. When I touch my neck it hurts. When I touch my cheek it hurts. When I touch my arm it hurts. When I touch my knee it hurts.”

So, they did a series of tests on this woman. And eventually, the lab results came.

And the doctor looked at the woman and said, “Sis, we found the reason everything in your body hurts.

With fear, the woman asked, “What’s it, Doc?”

The doctor said, “Your finger is broken.”

Sometimes, we look for the brokenness of other people-- but we don’t really see that we’re the ones actually broken.

That’s the kind of relationship that’s based on Law. You always try to follow the Law. But we’re imperfect people. I mean, we fail. We can’t always make sure that we follow every Commandment that God gives us. That’s why this relationship will always be flawed.

But thank God, this is not the only kind of relationship that's available. Because there is that other relationship. The better relationship that's not based on Law. But it’s based on Grace.

This is the kind of relationship where you believe that even before you do something good, God already loves you, God already forgives you, and God already accepts you.

Everything is Grace.

Do we have people who believe that?

Everything is Grace. This is a great relationship because this is the kind of relationship that will change you. That will eventually transform you.

And this was what happened to Saul.



**Everything
is Grace.**

How To Really Win

When Saul found out that the disciples of Jesus-- Peter, James, and John-- were in Damascus, he set a trip to the place.

Why?

Because he wanted to capture them. And he wanted to persecute them. But something happened along the way...

Acts 9:3-5 says:



Acts 9:3-5 NIV

"As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' 'Who are you, Lord?' Saul asked. 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' he replied."

You see, my Friends, this is a relationship where you realize that even in the dirtiest, messiest, ugliest moment in your life, God still loves you. And God will still try to fix you.

God will not stop loving you until He fixes your brokenness.

That's Grace.

Even if you feel you're not deserving sitting there, because you have many sins, believe that just by being in the Presence of the Lord, He can forgive you of your sins. Because you believe that Grace is what you need in your life.

Let me share with you one more story... This is fiction but I believe that it's a good theology.

A man died and then he went to Heaven. When he arrived there, he saw St. Peter -- you know, that vision, St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. So, St. Peter was waiting at the Gate, and the man showed up.

And Peter said, "Okay, this is how it works. Before you can get inside, you need 100 points that will be accumulated based on the good deeds that you did on Earth."

Only By God's Grace

So, the guy said, "All right, all right, let's do it..."

"First thing I need you to know, Peter, is that I was married for 50 years with the same spouse-- never cheated on her, never lied to her, never hurt her."

So, Peter clapped his hands and said, "For that, you get 3 points."

The man said, "All right... Hey, Peter, I think it would be good for you to know that when I was alive, I attended The Feast regularly. I was listening to all the Talk series. I also went to church regularly."

Peter said, "For that, you get 2 points."

The man thought for more deeds, and he said, "Oh, Peter, did you know that I also gave to our church? I also served in Ministry. Every Sunday I would come very early. I did that all my life."

Peter said, "For that, you get an extra 2 points."

By this time, it was getting hard for the man to come up with more deeds.

Then, he remembered one, and he said, "Peter, did you know that when I was alive, I created all these outreach programs-- for the indigents, for the unfortunate, for the unprivileged."

Peter said, "For that, you get 1 point."

By this time, the man was already irritated.

He was like, "What's happening?"

He could count how many points he had on his fingers and so, he said to Peter, "Peter, by the way that we are moving with this point system, the only way that I'm going to get inside that place is just by the Grace of God."

Then Peter smiled and he said, "Come on in."

Everything is God's Grace. And Grace should change you.

Because I don't want you sitting there and just thinking, "Well, it's God's gift for me to receive."

But you've got responsibility. Because Jesus preached this throughout the Gospels: That our works also have consequences. So, you can't go around proclaiming that Jesus is your Lord and Savior-- and then you're hurting people left and right. You can't proclaim that God is your King -- and then you're stealing funds from people.

Because if you're truly saved by Jesus, by His Grace, then that Grace should make you into a good person.

One more time, tell the person beside you, "Everything is Grace."

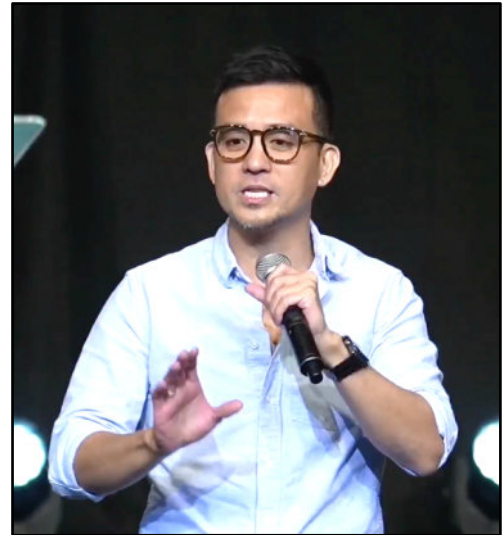


Who Will Pay?

I want to end with one last story.

I shared this many years ago here at The Feast. It's a story that happened early 2000s. You probably will be able to relate to this.

I was going from Magallanes to Bicutan. To get to Bicutan, I had to pass through the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX). To enter the expressway, you had to pay a toll, at that time, P25.00, at the toll booth. This was the time before RFID (Radio Frequency Identification Device for making electronic toll collection). You actually had to pay in cash.



So, I drove to the line for the toll booth and started looking for my wallet. I looked at my bag, the glove compartment, under the seat-- I could not find it.

Usually, when that happens, you try to look for loose change. And it happened at that time, there was nothing in my car. The only thing that was in my car was my lunch for that day-- a packed lunch-- rice and two pieces of *saba*-- Cardava banana-- the most delicious fruit but also the ugliest.

There was no ATM (Automated Teller Machine) along SLEX where I could withdraw some cash. I did not know what to do. So, finally, I was right at the side of the cashier's counter. I rolled down my car window. There was an old lady at the counter asking for my pay-- P25.00.

I explained to her, "Ma'am, I'm sorry. I left my wallet at home. I have no money to pay you. "

She stared at me-- blankly.

And I wondered what she would do to me. All I could think of at that moment was to offer her my two pieces of *saba*. And my worst fear was that she'd go out of her toll booth, go to my window, and smear my face with that *saba*. But thankfully, it did not happen.

You know, she said, "Son, you're not the first to do that. Many forget their money at home. But you know, I'll take care of your payment."

And she did. She reached into her pocket and she paid P25.00 so that I could go through.

When I was on my way back home, I made sure to go back to her. And I paid what was due her. She didn't want to accept the money.

I insisted and finally, she accepted my payment, and she said, "Thank you."

The Debt Has Been Paid

Here's my point: When it comes to salvation, we're trying to earn God's love, God's mercy, God's favor, and God's Grace through our good deeds.

But I want you to know, My Friend, that you cannot do it. You cannot, face-to-face, equally trade, and pay what God has willingly given you already. You cannot afford to do so.

Because that's what Jesus showed us. He came down to the world, and He allowed that He be nailed on the Cross, willingly. He wanted all of us to know that the debt had been paid. You're paid. You don't have to pay. He paid your debt with His Blood. It was His currency. And all we need to do is simply open our arms. This is the only response to the goodness of the Lord. This is it.

Just open your arms and say,
"Lord, I receive You."

And I imagine the Lord saying to all of you right now, "Children, I took care of it. I paid the bill. It's been long overdue but I paid for it with my life. It entailed a lot of cost-- but you're worth it."

The bill had been paid. And God's Grace flows freely in this world for everybody who needs it, for everybody who longs for it, for everybody who asks for it.

And so if you're that person right now, open your arms-- but more than that, open your soul to receive the Grace, the Gift, and the Life of Jesus.

Let's pray:

Heavenly Father, at this moment, we receive Your Son Jesus Christ. He is our Lord and Savior. Nobody else. We had crowned other gods in the past. But that was long gone. Today, we crown You with our praise. Today, we accept You as our Lord and our King forever and ever. And today, we freely receive Your Gift, Your Grace of Salvation. In Jesus' Name. Amen and Amen.





Your Road to Damascus

Let me tell you about the mystery of God's love-- how this amazing love will change you.

You know, some people might think that before they can face the Lord-- before they can come to Jesus-- everything in their life needs to be fixed already. Everything needs to be lined up. You know, everything is in order. No. That's not how Jesus expects you to come. Jesus expects you to come bringing your sin, bringing your baggage, and then surrendering it to Him at the foot of the Cross. So, you can be in your messiest, dirtiest, and ugliest appearance and still will not affect how Jesus loves you.

Hebrews says that Jesus has given us the power to approach the Throne of Grace. To receive the mercy of God. And I believe that right now, we are here at the Throne of Grace.

For some of you, this is your Road to Damascus where you have been persecuting Jesus by sinning against Him. But all that will change because I believe at this moment, the Light of Jesus will shine upon you -- just like it shone on Saul. And it will blind you, it will mold you and it will make you see His Way.

And I'm praying that you become like Paul now -- transformed from Saul into Paul, from the old to the new, from the broken to the whole.

That's who you will be after this day is done. Simply because Jesus is here. Jesus is here. And this is your Damascus Road, my Friend. Open your arms right now and receive Jesus as your Lord and King. Say this with me:

Dear Jesus, You are my King. You are my Savior. And from this day on, I serve no other. I will worship You. I will serve You and I will love You until the end of my days. Thank You, Jesus, for dying for me. But more so Thank You, Jesus, for raising me to life. Amen.



MERCY MINISTRIES

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

--Matthew 5:7

The PRISON MISSION PART 4 *Healing Begins with the Healer*



IN the last three issues of *The Feast Family*, we featured the organization, objectives, operations, theological basis of this Ministry, and how the Prison Mission accomplishes its mission.

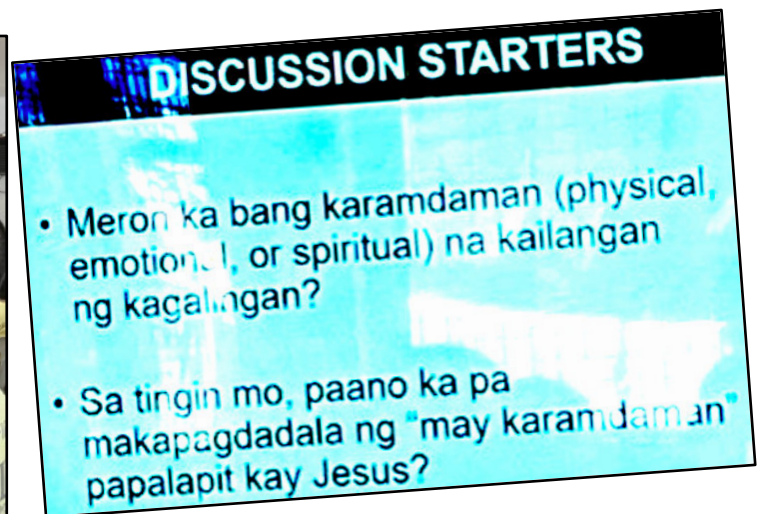
We continue our series on the Prison Mission with this post we took the liberty to grab from its Facebook page.

This story well inspires us and it will inspire you as well and touch your generous heart.

☀️ *Bringing Healing to the Prison* ☀️

LAST Sunday, February 4, we went to the prison with one big message: "Healing comes to those who go to the Healer."

It's a simple but powerful reminder that real healing begins when we turn to God. Even in tough times, finding comfort in God's embrace brings peace and renewal.





At the prison, our ka-Family shared stories about seeking healing, showing how faith can change lives. Their bravery is truly inspiring to us all.



A heartfelt thank you to those who donated food for our mission. Your kindness adds warmth to our gatherings and fuels our mission to spread healing and hope.

Join Us in Spreading Healing: If you're touched by our mission, consider joining us. Learn how you can contribute at bit.ly/PrisonMissionWaystoSupport.
[#PrisonMission](#) [#HealingJourneys](#) [#FaithInAction](#)
[#SpreadingHope](#)





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 to 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>

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

Branch Banco de Oro - Savings Account no. 000160506123 SM Cubao Branch

PNB - Current Account no. 108410089566 SSS branch

Metrobank-Savings Account no. 265-3-26509112-2 e Rodriguez Branch

Allied Bank Savings Account no. 3160-12345-1 E Rodriguez Branch

Union Bank Savings Account no. 00-206-000940-1 Tektite Branch

Note: Text, Fax, or email us your name, date and amount of deposit, and the branch of the bank where you deposited your donation, or fax the deposit slip to us. Email us at support@kerygmfamily.com or text us at (63) 922-828-9890/ (63) 998-968-4416 or Fax to (+632) 725-1230



FAMILY ONLINE NEWSMAGAZINE

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

Founder: Bo Sanchez

Mercy Ministries Chairman
Hermie Morelos

Editor-in-Chief
Cynthia U. Santiago

Chief Photographer
Edmundo L. Santiago

**Feast International
Region Head**
Vic Español

Multimedia Staff
Ronaldo Antonio U. Santiago
Dylan Anthony A. Santiago

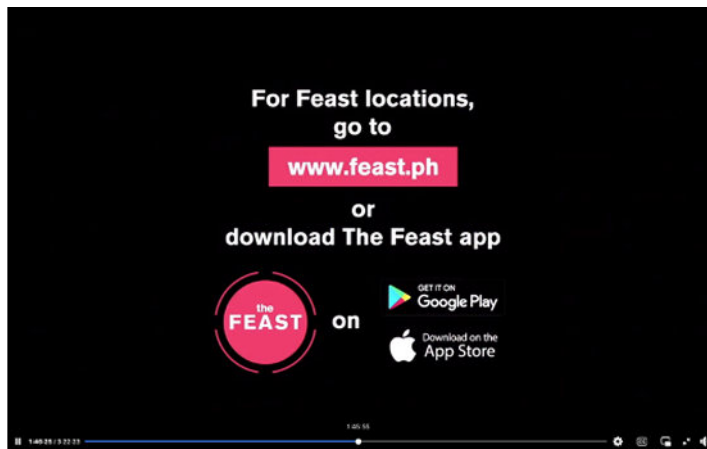
Media Ministries Head
Randy Borromeo

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

