



Beginnings...

FOR articles in the March 2024 issue of *The Feast International*, we sent interview questionnaires to a couple of Feast builders in our region, praying we would get a response before our deadline for this issue.



By God's grace, Bro. Lando Patolilic Feast Dublin Builder, sent us a wonderful story of the beginnings of The Feast in Ireland and even took time to go to the St. Patrick Church in Dublin to take a photo of the statue of St. Patrick, *page 2*.

My wife Ditas and I have been blessed to go to Feast Dublin for a pastoral visit. And so we are so happy with God's success there.

As we read Bro. Lando's story, we realized why we have this story for our March issue. This month, Ireland is celebrating the Feast Day of its Patron Saint, St. Patrick. Did the Saint just guide us, direct us to God's amazing grace for Ireland by giving us the story of Feast Dublin? We believe so! For as we often say in Community, in this world, in this life, there is no such thing as an accident. God truly loves us. And the story of Feast Dublin assures us so!



St. Patrick-- and Feast Dublin-- have simply continued the Lord Jesus' Mission to assure us eternal joy and peace with Him. But the Mission is not simply a walk in the park, so to speak. There have been challenges and struggles.



That's the message of our new Feast Talk for March. Our founder, Bro. Bo Sanchez, titles the Talk series *MESSY SAINTS* and Talk 1 is about *Confused Army*, *page 15*.

Before we go to March, we go back to the beginnings of our Prison Ministry, with the inspiring story of Sis. Babes Zambrano, *page 17*.

Yes, this issue is about beginnings-- the best way we can appreciate our present and look forward to our bright future.

All Glory to God,

VIC ESPAÑOL
Region Head
Feast International



FEAST DUBLIN

Planting in the Land of Abundance

By LANDO PATOLILIC



TO this day, I still can't believe why I am leading this great and big religious Community originated in Manila and led by Bro. Bo Sanchez. It is a great blessing, indeed, a privilege that I am doing this now as Feast Builder in Dublin, Ireland.

But I know it is God's dream to build The Feast here in Ireland, and my role is to offer the best I can to fulfill this dream.

I am here, yes, to fulfill my own dream of a comfortable life in this prosperous land.

At right, here I am with my co-Feasters celebrating Feast Dublin's Third Anniversary.





A Land Just for God

Just some history we picked up from some online searches on this land where God brought us:

We found out the word *Ireland* comes from the old Irish word *Eire* which means *land of abundance* and *fertile land*. *Eire* has also been derived from the Goddess Eiru, a heroic figure and queen in Irish mythology.

And as God would have it, from the land of a goddess, Ireland would be a land just for Him.

As the map shows, Ireland is an island nation on the westernmost edge of Europe. Various groups settled in Ireland: Around 6000 B.C., the first, people from neighboring lands; in 700 B.C., the Celts, a technological, then pagan people from Central Europe; The 19th Century A.D., the Vikings from Scandinavia which had been attacking villages in north-western Europe.

A member group of the Vikings called Norsemen or Norman Vikings, which had taken control of England, invaded Ireland and made it an English territory.

Like most places in northwest Europe, Ireland followed the Celtic pagan religion, worshipping various gods. England, by this time, was already a Christian nation. So, with the English colonization, Christianity came to Ireland. And soon enough, The Feast.

A Son Is Called

It happened that there were two Christian religions here. Because in time, Ireland split between the Republic of Ireland (simply called Ireland) which was predominantly Catholic, and Northern Ireland, predominantly Protestant.

Ireland became an independent republic in 1937. And by 1949, it had no more ties with the United Kingdom.

Still, by Divine Design, Catholicism spread widely in Ireland as God called a son to take care of His people here.

He is now St. Patrick, the Patron Saint of Ireland.



Statue of Saint Patrick

THIS STATUE WAS DISCOVERED when workers cleared rubbish away from a ruined part of the Cathedral in 1833. It appears to represent an archbishop of the late 13th Century wearing the pallium, a fine woollen vestment that symbolises his position as an Archbishop. The left hand may have once held a crozier; the restored right hand is raised in blessing.

While the body was made in the 13th Century, the head was certainly made much later.

One clue to its date is the style of the mitre, which was used in the 17th Century. Records from before the Reformation refer to a statue of Saint Patrick in the Cathedral. However, there is no way to tell if this is the one.

Here I am with an iconic image of St. Patrick at St. Patrick Church in Dublin, and with Bro. Jun Ando, a Feast Dublin disciple.

A poster presents a brief story on how the statue of St. Patrick was found.

His bios say Patrick was born in Great Britain to wealthy Catholic parents around the end of the Fourth Century.

Usually, we turn to God not when we're okay-- rather when we are in despair. As what happened to Patrick.

When he was 16 years old, Irish raiders attacked Patrick's family's estate, took Patrick, and made him a slave in Ireland for six years.

An account says that Patrick, in despair during his captivity, turned to God, became a devout Christian, and even dreamed of converting the Irish to Christianity. A dream that would be fulfilled.

St. Patrick: From Slave to Missionary

Patrick had a chance to escape from Ireland and found his way back to England. There, he studied to be a priest. After his ordination, his congregation sent him to Ireland to minister to the Christians already there and eventually convert the Irish.

He became a bishop in Ireland and eventually its patron saint.

St. Patrick died on March 17, around 460 A.D. Ireland celebrates every March 17 as St. Patrick's Day. On this day, Americans wear green clothes and drink green beer mainly because the color green is associated with Ireland which is nicknamed Emerald Island because of its vast green forest.

Also, while evangelizing the Irish, St. Patrick used the three-leaf green shamrock to teach the Holy Trinity-- each leaf representing the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



Feast Dublin: From Despair to Discipleship

Indeed, times of desperation are times of evangelization. Just as the slavery of St. Patrick boosted Catholicism in Ireland, a worldwide disease established The Feast Dublin.

The world will remember January 30, 2020, as the day the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) and to characterize the outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease (first detected in China in December 2019) as a Pandemic on March 11, 2020.

Three months after, on June 14, 2020, we began Feast Dublin. And we've been holding our faith gathering with 30 members, and counting, at St Agnes Catholic Church Centre, St Agnes Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12, Ireland, every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the Month.

Following protocols prohibiting *live* gatherings to prevent the spread of COVID, we held Feast Dublin via Zoom online platform with just seven persons on June 14, 2020. And we saw our Feast growing as people joined us -- not only Dublin residents but online viewers from various parts of the country and even from Northern Ireland.

So, we were like, "What will be next after the Pandemic is over? What will happen to our group when *live*, face-to-face gatherings are already allowed?"



God's Steps To Sustain Feast Dublin

In deep prayer, we heard God telling us the steps to take in preparation for Feast Dublin *live!*

First: Form a Feast Council of Elders. The government allowed *live* gatherings -- but not inside homes. So, with 12 servant leaders, all professionals, we held our first Council Meeting outside our home.

Second: Find a venue for our Feast. During our meeting, we agreed to consult with the Parish Priest of the nearest church to us, the St. Agnes Catholic Church. The priest, Fr. Tony O'Shaughnessy, P.P., bless him, kindly set a place for us in the church. Venue challenge hurdled. But there were more...



Third: Comply with Government Regulations. Two major requirements: Garda (Police) Vetting-- the process of checking a person's background to assure that the person is suitable to work or volunteer in an environment with children, or vulnerable adults, or both;

Public Liability Insurance up to €6,500,000 which covers legal liability for claims made against accidental bodily injury or loss or damage to property in the course of an insured event.

We struggled, we prayed, and by God's grace, the Council of Elders, servants, and members helped out together and we were able to comply with the requirements.



Pastoral Guidance

We consulted with Bro. Vic Español, our Feast International Region head, and with his advice, we eventually were able to register our Community, the Light of Jesus Family Ireland, as a non-profit religious organization, with the government of Ireland's department taking care of religious groups. We are still in the process of leveling up to "Charitable" status-- another hurdle, this time, with the Charity Regulator Authority.

Bro. Vic Español (*above, standing, 6th from left, in black jacket*) and at his left, his wife Sis. Ditas during a pastoral visit in our Feast Dublin, with Feasters on a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Knock, Ireland.



Fourth: Ministries. We already set up our various Ministries: Admin, Event, Music, Finance (Accounting/Audit), Registration-Connectors, Welcome (Ushers), Food, Discipleship, Intercessory, and Liturgy.



Fifth: Light Groups. *Here we are merry in the last month of 2003.*

To sustain Feast Dublin, Bro. Vic recommended that we form our members into Light Groups-- small groups of 5 to 15 members to take care of each one's concerns and support their faith journey.

And that's what we are doing now.

Feast Miracle

Our group of servants/leaders is unique, coming from different Catholic religious organizations: Couples for Christ (CFC); El Shaddai; Bukas Loob sa Diyos (BLD); Born Again Christians; and The Feast members from Manila.

One amazing story is about our servant from Born Again Christians.

He was a Ministry head of its Choir.

Now, he is serving in Feast Dublin's Worship and Music Ministry.

This is his story...

He is Bro. Roberto (Jun) Olavario, from Kilkenny City, Ireland. *At right*, Bro. Jun with his family, *from left*: daughter Danielle; wife Violeta; Bro Jun; and son Joshua.

First, I met his brother, Bro. Mon Olavario in a shopping mall.

We talked and eventually, I invited him to join our Feast.



Bro. Mon joined us and soon, he invited me to visit his home in Kilkenny City and meet his brother Jun. *Here* is Bro, Mon with Sis. Violy Olavario (*to his right*) and Sis. Edna Go (*left*).

Long story short, I met Jun and I was also able to convince him to try joining our Feast.

At first, Jun was hesitant to join us. But during our first session via Zoom with some other members from Kilkenny City, he joined us.



Jun also joined our Feast Light session online.

I taught the participants some formation lessons, Bible Study, and passages for reflection.

To my amazement, Jun stands out as an obedient, ardent, committed member.

He travels more than 100 kilometers from his home in Kilkenny City to Dublin just to attend our Saturday Choir practice and our regular Sunday Live Feast event every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the Month--with perfect attendance for two years now.

He even invited his entire family after a few months of serving the Feast Dublin. And his family members are now also serving in various Feast Dublin ministries.



And speaking of miracles, here is our biggest: Feast Dublin Year 3!

Hello, 2024!

YES, The Feast is a place of miracles. And we look forward to more in 2024!

We are expanding Feast Dublin by building the Feast Light Derry-Londonderry (Northern Ireland)



with Sis. Hazelline Buenaventura as Feast Light Planter.



We hope to grow Feast Light Cork in Cork City, Ireland, with Sis. Charmine Catuburan as Feast Light Planter.



And co-Feasters are already making the Victory sign!

In every Feast area, we have organized the Feast Core Group Leaders to manage their own Feast Light but with our support and supervision.

Our major project in 2024 is to build more Feasts in other areas in Ireland.

One in our Calendar of Activities for this year is the opening of Feast Light Drogheda. We are consulting Fray Roner Celestial Santos Martelino Anildes, an Augustinian priest from Santo Nino, Cebu, just recently assigned to St Augustine Church in Drogheda.

We are also hoping to build Feast Light Tallaght in Dublin 24.

And one big dream is to have a Feast Mission House in Dublin.



God's Call

Until now, until this time, I cannot understand why I am here in The Feast leading this group of professionals.

Before I found The Light of Jesus Family and The Feast, I led quite an ordinary life. I was born in Baybay, Leyte. I went to Mailhi Community School, and Baybay High School. Then I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Customs Administration from the University of Cebu (previously Cebu Central Colleges).

I worked in Atlas Mining in Cebu as an Import Entry Declarant.

In 1993, I resigned from Atlas Mining. Shortly after, I was asked to manage the New Ventures Customs Brokerage, a partnership firm in Cebu.

Little did I know, this was all along part of God's plan for me to be a missionary.

One of our clients, Noli Aliman, owner of Asrad Sales Corporation in Mandaue City, happened to be an elder in the Bukas Loob sa Diyos (BLD). He invited me to join the BLD community. I became a member of BLD in Cebu District, and before I left for Ireland in 2006, I served in the Intercessory Ministry.

It was my wife Feny who first went to Ireland-- in 2003 to work as a nurse in a public hospital. The children and I followed her in 2006. *Here* we are in Ireland green for greener pastures, *from left:* yours truly, sons Christian, Alfie, and Philmar, and Feny.





Funding The Feast

Like most Overseas Filipino Workers in despair for being away from our homeland, I looked for a God-centered group and I found the El Shaddai in Dublin. I became part of its Preaching Team.

Still, I felt lacking in my religious life.

I soon surfed the net about Feasts online. And I met Sis. Kenia Alejandrino from Feast Light Admin-Central (Feast Light-Feast Video)

I asked her if there was a Feast in Ireland. She told me there was no Feast yet in the country-- and she convinced me to try and start The Feast here.

I was hesitant to do that because I did not know how to start it. Besides, to be honest, I did not want any more Community responsibilities. I wanted to be simply an attendee.

But I guess with the Lord's persistence, I prayed about Sis. Ken's suggestion that night. It was my first time spending long hours of quality time praying -- while my wife already fell asleep.

Two hours praying-- hardly did that happen in my entire Community life.

But I distinctly remember I felt the Presence of the Lord-- as there was an overflowing joy in my heart while I was spending time with Him.

Throughout that long prayer session, I did not feel tired.

I just loved exchanging words with Him.

Amazingly, to this day, I have this regular prayer time with Him -- in the morning, the moment I wake up, and in the evening, before I sleep. I intercede for our Feast Community, our leaders, servants in Dublin, as well as the rest of Ireland and around the globe, and our respective families.

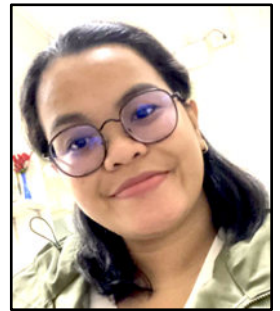
My life now is so different from what it was like before I joined LOJ.

Changes began when I was already leading Feast Dublin.

Yes, I believe transformation and redirection have happened in my life. I've learned to be content with what I have now and just always trust God about what He wants my life to be.

It is by God's grace, it is His will and plan for my life that should prevail.

Of course, I've experienced problems, and I've struggled to find solutions for them. Many times, I wanted to give up this Community. But in my prayer time, I heard God telling me: *How about the people you are leading? What will happen to them?*



Our Future

As I said, I still can't believe why I am leading this great and big religious Community. But yes, it is God's dream to build The Feast here in Ireland. It is a privilege to serve Him and The Feast community, and my dream is to be able to obey and follow God's leading very well.



By the way, the word *Dublin* comes from *Dyflin*, which is derived from the Irish *Dubh Duibhlinn*, or *black pool*-- because the area lies where the Poddle River and the Liffey River meet as *Dyflin*, meaning *black pool*.

With two rivers, Dublin is also a popular fishing ground, like for salmon and trout.

Today, as in several Feasts around the world, we are in Ireland to fish -- for men-- following our Light of Jesus core mission based on Jesus' call to fishermen Simon named Peter, and his brother Andrew: *Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.* (Matthew 4:19).

After all, Dublin's coat of arms includes its motto: *Obedientia Civium Urbis Felicitas*, which means *the obedience of the citizens produces a happy city.*

Yes, we obey, planting The Feast in Ireland, making it one of the happiest places to be.

Now, I try my best to build future leaders and disciples who will lead, manage, and sustain The Feast in Ireland.

I have faith that this will happen as I hold on to God's promise in Jeremiah 29:11:

For I know the plans I have for you...plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.





MERCY MINISTRIES

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

--Matthew 5:7

LIGHT OF JESUS PRISON MINISTRY

From Burden to Blessing

³¹ “But when the Son of Man^[a] comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. ³² ...³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. ³⁶ I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’ --Matthew 25: 31-34

GUIDED by this inspiring message from our Lord Jesus, the Light of Jesus Family has established and sustained Mercy Ministries -- serving the *hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, and those in prison.*

The LOJ Prison Ministry started with groups in random going to jails to minister to persons deprived of liberty.

Until an incident, though unfortunate, led to the establishment of a regular LOJ Prison Ministry.

In the early 1990s, Babes Zambrano was accused of an anomaly at a government office she worked for. As she waited for the court decision on her case, Babes found her way to the Light of Jesus Family. *Here* she is with LOJ founder Bro. Bo Sanchez who readily opened our home for her.



At The Feast, she was embraced by one of the LOJ Light (Caring) Groups, comforting her, and sharing with her God’s Word.

And in time, she experienced an intense spiritual awakening.



Freedom

Eventually, Babes was given a 12-year sentence at the Correctional Institution for Women (CIW).

Undaunted by the lonely if not harsh life in prison, Babes focused on sharing Jesus with the women of CIW. Long story short, soon she was leading a regular prayer meeting there inviting preachers and volunteer servants from LOJ to hold the gathering.

In 1998, Babes was released from CIW by an executive clemency.

Although set free, Babes continued the LOJ prayer meetings in CIW. And not a few experienced the spiritual renewal she experienced. One inmate, also released from CIW, even came and served in LOJ.

Today, already in her retirement years, Babes serves as a spiritual adviser in our Anawim Home for Abandoned Elderly.

Is that a burden you can hardly bear? Jesus *can* and *will* turn it into a blessing.



THIS MONTH

Does the Church Have an Autoimmune Disease?

ONE day, a friend of mine—a physician in her 30s—said, “Bo, please pray for me. I have been diagnosed with lupus.

“So sorry to hear about this,” I said.

I knew little of the disease so, I asked her, “What is lupus?”

She explained: “Our immune system is like our body’s army that fights bad stuff like germs and viruses. It also has special cells that tell the difference between your body cells and bad invaders. Sadly, my immune system is confused. It thinks my healthy cells are the enemy. It’s like an army accidentally attacking its own citizens instead of invaders.”

My friend, when God-Followers are fighting each other in church, it’s like the church has an autoimmune disease.

There was a confused army in Corinth. Church members think other members are the enemy.

May today’s Feast heal us from this disease!

May your dreams come true,

Bo Sanchez



WELCOME
to our new
Feast Talk Series:
MESSY SAINTS:
Love Thy Neighbor
(Even If They Drive You Nuts)
Solving the Problems in 1 Corinthians
Talk 1: *Confused Army*



INTERNATIONAL

Thank You!

The Feast International is a spin-off ministry of the Light of Jesus Family founded by Bro. Bo Sanchez.

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.

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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.



1.



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.

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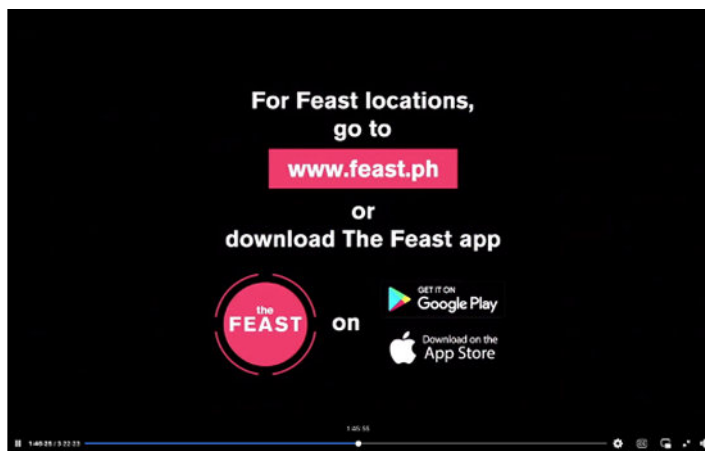
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Go and make disciples of all men.
— Matthew 28:19

