



## *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***

## *Ssshhh... Listen...*

“WE can listen without loving but we can never love without listening.”

Fr. Paolo Asprer reminded us that’s what we should be doing this Lenten Season: Be silent. Listen. So that we will



hear well God’s message to us this Holy Week. How to listen? Fr. Paolo tells us how, *page 3*.

Failing to listen well can lead to conflicts. Bro. Bo Sanchez tells us that was the problem of *Messy Saints*-- the topic of our new Feast Talk series starting this Sunday, *page 1*.

Listen. That’s what couples must do if they want their marriage to work. Bro. Bo and his wife Sis. Marowe have a lot to say about this in their new book, *Better Lovers* which they launched

at The Feast last Sunday, *page 11*.

Listen. It’s fun. As we found out last Sunday as Bro. Audee Villaraza hosted a Forum as part of last Sunday’s Special Feast with guests, *from left*, Gino Sy, Diane and Red Magdaong, and Gilla Alhambra, *page 17*.



Listen. That’s what we are doing during our Light of Jesus Family Holy Week Retreat. Bro. Didoy Lubaton presented details when he welcomed us to Sunday’s Feast, *page 10*.

Listen. That’s what leaders, servants of our Mercy Ministry are doing as our Ministry head, Bro. Hermie Morelos, has blessed us with the Feast Mercy Teaching-- *Giving Givers What They Can Give*, *page 40*.

*Ssshhh... Listen...*



All for God’s Glory,

**Randy Borromeo**  
Media Ministry  
Executive Director

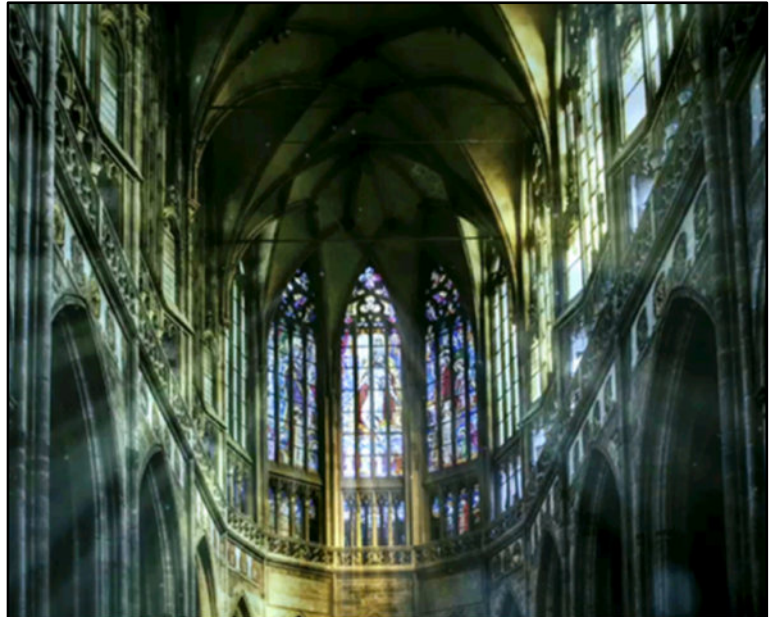




## ***FLASHBACK!***

**FEBRUARY 25, 2024**

### **Holy Mass**



**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

### **Homily**

**REV.FR. PAOLO ASPRER**

on the Gospel Mark 9: 2-10

Excerpts:

GOOD MORNING, Sisters and Brothers in Christ! Peace and blessings to everyone.

The Lenten season is a season of loving sacrifice-- a season of sacrificial love. The ultimate beginning and end point of this Lenten season is not our sacrifice -- but God's love, and the love that we put in our sacrifices.

Last Ash Wednesday, which was also Valentine's Day, I celebrated Mass in a university.

Before the Mass, the server, a student of the university, asked me, "Father, what would you put on our forehead-- heart or cross?"

## Ultimate Symbol of Love

Why is the Cross the ultimate symbol of love? Why is the Cross the ultimate symbol of Christianity and not the heart?

Says this one writer: “The heart stops beating. But the Man on the Cross does not stop loving.”

Love can only be true love, real love if it is sacrificial, if it is selfless, if it is self-emptying. You will know the depth and measure of true love through the Cross, through the crises of life.

My dear Feasters, our Readings today, the Second Sunday of Lent, remind us that the first duty of love is to listen. Listen.

I like so much this imagery: when you put together the ears, it is shaped like a heart.

At the very heart of the word *heart* is *ear*.

The letters of the word *listen* have the same letters as *silent*.

You know, the Church Fathers have this saying: *Speak once, think twice, listen thrice*.

The first duty of love is to listen. We can listen without loving but we can never love without listening.

It's good to ask ourselves: When was the last time that we truly listened to another person?

Or perhaps we do not want to listen. Because we want to do all the talking.

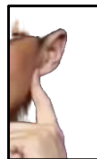
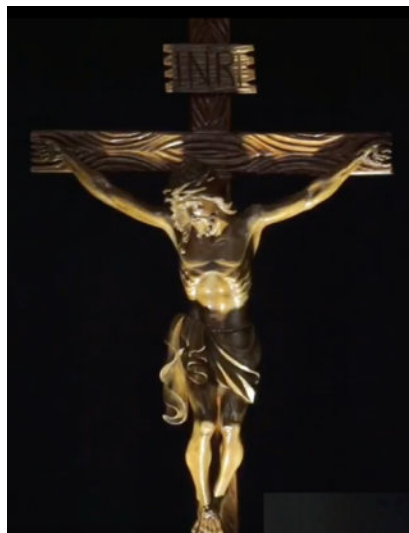
Or, we are listening but we're simply waiting for our time to talk.

Or we are listening with the intention to reply but not to understand fully the person.

The Lenten Season is a season of listening.

To God. To our surroundings. To the people around us. To our beloved.

And even listening to the depths of your heart.



## Three Messages of the Transfiguration

My dear Friends, our Gospel Reading today is the Transfiguration story.

The Gospel of Luke says that Jesus, while praying, is Transfigured into glory. He became dazzling white. He suddenly shone in His glory.

And what does that tell us?



LiturgyTools.net

<https://www.liturgytools.net> > 2017/07 > pictures-transfig... ⋮

### Pictures for the Transfiguration



**First:** It's a reminder that Jesus, the Man Jesus-- who fed the multitude, who cured the sick, who raised the dead, who taught about the Kingdom of God-- He is not simply 100% human. He is 100% divine. It's a reminder of the real Person of Jesus: Human and Divine.

**Second:** It is also a reminder for all of us, disciples of the Lord, that there are no shortcuts to success. No shortcuts to glory.

Good Friday: suffering, loving. Suffering love is an essential component of glory. An essential component of our growth in faith. The depths of our person.

In the seasons of crises and cross, our humanness is deepened. We realize what is true and valuable in life.

One time, I saw this statement shirt that says: *Have a good crisis.*

Crisis moments like the cross, sickness, illness, loss of job, loss of loved ones, loss of health-- they amplify and reveal the true character of a person.

**Third:** Listen. My dear Friends, with all these, we are called to grow in listening.

We are called to listen to God; Listen to people; Listen to our heart.

## Listen to God

There's this Danish philosopher and his name is Soren Kierkegaard.

He said, "Real, true prayer does not change God. Real prayer changes the one who prays. Real prayer does not intend to change God. Real prayer intends to change us. Change in perceptions, change in character.

You will know the depth of a person's faith through the quality of his decisions in life-- in the person's connection with fellowmen.

We pray not until God listens to us-- because God is always listening.

We pray until we learn how to listen and attune our will, our mind, our soul, our spirit, our entire person to God.

That is what real prayer is all about. More than what we do for the Lord, real prayer is what God does for us.



## First Reading: Genesis 22: 1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

*1 After these things, God tempted Abraham, and said to him: Abraham, Abraham. And he answered: Here I am. 2 He said to him: Take thy only begotten son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and go into the land of vision: and there thou shalt offer him for an holocaust upon one of the mountains which I will shew thee. 9a And they came to the place which God had shewn him, where he built an altar, and laid the wood in order upon it. 10 And he put forth his hand and took the sword, to sacrifice his son. 11 And behold an angel of the Lord from heaven called to him, saying: Abraham, Abraham. And he answered: Here I am. 12 And he said to him: Lay not thy hand upon the boy, neither do thou any thing to him: now I know that thou fearest God, and hast not spared thy only begotten son for my sake. 13 Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw behind his back a ram amongst the briers sticking fast by the horns, which he took and offered for a holocaust instead of his son. 15 And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, saying: 16 By my own self have I sworn, saith the Lord: because thou hast done this thing, and hast not spared thy only begotten son for my sake: 17 I will bless thee, and I will multiply thy seed as the stars of heaven, and as the sand that is by the sea shore: thy seed shall possess the gates of their enemies. 18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because thou hast obeyed my voice.*

**Listen to our surroundings-- to those around us, especially our loved ones**

One time, in a parish, there was this grandmother and grandson.

And the grandmother asked me, "Father, please greet my grandson."

So, I greeted the grandson, "How are you? What is your name?"

To my surprise, the boy cried.

I found out the parents of this child have separated.

And I cannot forget what he told me: "Why is it, Father, that people I love most are the ones who hurt me most-- deeply?"

That's ironic. That's a paradox of life, of love. The people we love most are the ones who hurt us the most--deeply.

The boy asked, "Why, because I am young, my parents don't listen to me?"

There's this business communication expert and his name is Peter Drucker.

He said the best thing in communication is to be able to hear, listen, and understand *what* is left unsaid.

For parents who have millennials or Gen Z children, when you ask them, "How are you, Darling?" they answer, "K lang, Mommy. K lang, Daddy. (Just okay, Mommy, Daddy)."

Are you able to hear, listen to what is unsaid?

You might be saying, "Father we're not soothsayers."

If you are able to hear, listen, and understand what is being said by the speaker, that's a sign of intelligence. But it takes a loving heart--wisdom-- to hear, listen, and understand what is left unsaid.



**Second Reading: Romans 8: 31b-34**

*31b If God be for us, who is against us? 32 He that spared not even his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how hath he not also, with him, given us all things? 33 Who shall accuse against the elect of God? God that justifieth.*

*34 Who is he that shall condemn? Christ Jesus that died, yea that is risen also again; who is at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

## **Listen to the depths of our heart**

We do not allow the voices, the noises of the world, of our surroundings to drown our inner voice. And that inner voice we have to protect, we have to nurture, we have to safeguard.

Because that is the voice of the Father that tells us, “You are my beloved. You are my beloved in spite and despite your shadows, your shades, your sinfulness, you are my beloved.”

You know, a lot of voices and noises in our surroundings, in our head, in our heart-- conflicting voices, competing voices. And which voice shall we heed? Shall we choose to obey?

The Voice of God is always the voice of life. It is always the voice of hope and healing. It is always the voice of new beginning. That is the Voice of God.

If listen to the wrong voice, eventually, we will make the wrong choices and decisions in our life.

And, of course, we have to discern what voice we hear. Why?

You know, because of the season of Lent. And the enemy is cunning. The enemy, the Devil, can turn light into darkness, and darkness into light.

The Word of God tells us the prince of darkness comes to us masquerading as an angel of light. That is why we have to discern and watch out.

The Voice of God versus the voice of darkness, despair, discouragement, diversion, deception, death.

My dear Friends, three lessons:

We are called to listen. Not so much listening with our ears, but listening with the ears of our heart. We listen to God. Listen to our surroundings. Our loved ones. We listen to the depths of our heart. The first duty of love is to listen. We can listen without loving but can never love without listening.

Amen.



**Responsorial Psalm:**  
**Psalms 116: 10, 15, 16-17, 18-19**  
*R. (9) I will walk before the Lord,  
in the land of the living.*





### **BRO. DIDOY LUBATON:**

Good Morning, Everybody. Hey, I want to welcome everyone for coming over. Thank you for being present. Those watching online, we recognize you. Thank you for tuning in. Even those watching on replay thank you for being part of our Feast.

How many are attending for the first time? Hi! Welcome! Welcome! Welcome Home! Welcome to the Family!

We have visitors from The Institute of Formation, Fondacio Asia (IFFAsia). They are a school of discipleship training young leaders to be active in church and our society. There are 16 of them here. They are from Malaysia, Laos, and Myanmar. Welcome, welcome! Thank you for being part of our Feast today. Welcome to the Family.

### **Lent Practices**

My dear Friends, we are in the season of Lent. Notice that our stage setting is subdued. You don't see flowers. And our music is not as loud as it usually is. It's all a deliberate effort so we would conduct ourselves in the right presence in the Mass during the Lenten time.

If you notice, after Communion, we take a pause-- a reflection time to be one-on-one with the Lord.

One more solemn pause during Mass: that's right after the Homily when you sit down and let God speak to you right after healing in the Gospel.

And no too loud clapping. I'm just reminding you of our Catholic practices so that we are all aligned with the Lenten season when we are waiting, wanting Christ-- wanting to experience God and be one with Him through His suffering and death, *and* we will see His glorious Resurrection come Easter Sunday. Easter, we celebrate!

**THE FEAST**  
BAY AREA

FEAST BAY AREA HOLY WEEK RETREAT & GRAND EASTER FEAST 2024

**walk**

MARCH 28-31 | SMX MANILA

**Holy Week Retreat**  
March 28-30 | 9AM-12NN  
Holy Thursday to Black Saturday

**ON-SITE TICKET** PHP 900  
**ONLINE TICKET** PHP 750

**Grand Easter Feast**  
March 31, Sunday  
9AM-12NN and 3PM-6PM

**FREE ADMISSION**

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW AT THE LOBBY!

One big announcement: Our Holy Week Retreat is three half days-- Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Black Saturday. We're opening at only P900.00 for those attending the *live* sessions, and P750.00 for those who are joining on a specific platform online. It is given as affordable as that because we're also hoping for the support of donors and sponsors-- just like last year.

We are a Community. We want to reach as many people as we can. We're dreaming of blessing 2,000 participants coming together at the SMX Manila, and thousands online. And if God is calling you to be our donors and sponsors, you get the tickets, you get some books and you get premium seats and time slot. Approach our table at the lobby for details.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, we need your support.

Easter Sunday, we will have two sessions -- 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. And it's all for free.

Think... First, you: How would you like to celebrate your Holy Week this year?

Second: How would you like your family to celebrate Holy Week this year?

Third: Think of 1, 2, 3 friends, relatives, even colleagues who you've been wanting to bring to Jesus-- to experience The Feast and make them closer to God.

This is that beautiful time.

If you cannot bring them to our usual Sunday Feast because of many distractions, this is a deliberate time when we can all come together as an entire Community. It's going to be a powerful event. And I believe it changes lives. It has changed mine for the better every single year.

And this is the time the Community needs your support. Let's do this, let's show up. I hope and I expect I will see you there.

We have one more beautiful announcement. Let's welcome onstage Bro. Bo and Marowe Sanchez...

**BO SANCHEZ:**

Introducing the beautiful woman beside me 😊  
Last year, we celebrated 25 years together.  
Beautiful marriage. Yeah.

When our anniversary was approaching,  
I said, “I think I already earned the right to talk  
about a very important topic in marriage.

And that is married sex. It’s a taboo topic  
for religious people, for spiritual people.  
We don’t talk about it. But I really felt that we  
talk about it because when we talk to married  
couples, and, you know, it’s a passion of ours.

My wife, especially, has a big heart for married couples to  
have more love and more joy and more happiness. Our hearts  
break when we meet a couple going through those  
difficulties, struggles.

So, my wife and I finally decided we were going to bring out  
this book: *Better Lovers: Create Lifelong Sexual Intimacy  
with Your Spouse*.

There are parts of this book that are, again, very, very private,  
very personal.

Some people would read those portions and say, “Bro. Bo,  
too much information. Do not share about it too much.”

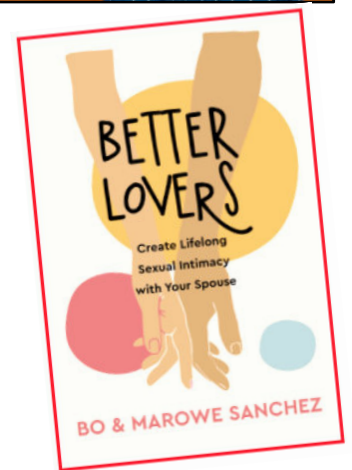
But we decided we were going to do it, anyway. For this one reason: If I can help,  
if we can help one person, one husband, one wife, one couple, one family to become better  
in their love for one another, in the way they care for each other, then it is all worth it--  
sharing and disclosing that.

So, we just want to share this book with you. The book is available outside.  
It will be available next Sunday, the following Sunday. It will be available during  
the Holy Week Retreat.

My wife was asking, “I wonder if there is a connection between  
Lent and married sex.”

Yes, there is. Because the point of the book is that sex is service. And many people  
don’t think of it that way. But it is your way of serving your spouse.

So, that’s what the book is talking about and we hope it will be a blessing to many  
married couples who are here as well as those preparing for marriage, those who are  
engaged already and they want to work on this.





## **Life is about really giving yourself and helping other people.**

This week, my week has been crazy.

Monday and Tuesday, I gave a seminar in Palawan.

Wednesday morning I met with our Feast Builders in the morning. In the afternoon, I gave a seminar for the financial managers of the country-- Bangko Central ng Pilipinas-- Central Bank of the Philippines.

And then in the evening, I had an investors' meeting. Because I invested in a Singaporean company. Had a great meeting.

On Thursday, I recorded seven videos. And then in the evening, I prayed over Filipino-Chinese businessmen.

Then on Friday, we went to Naga-- round trip. We wanted to just be with friends who lost their mom. A dear friend of ours.

And then yesterday (Saturday), I went to Bataan. Three hours going there. I gave a seminar. Three hours coming back to Manila.

Today, we're here.

My schedule is not easy. My schedule is crazy. But you know what? It's so much fun. And I feel good about it. I biked this morning. Exercise. Read my book-- one chapter a day.

You know, people tell me, "You probably read so many so many hours."

No. I read just one chapter a day -- every single day. You know, under a tree, sipping my coffee.

I wanted to say why am I happy. Why are we happy?

I think it's a decision to be generous. A decision to say, "Can we help?"

If this book can help someone we're going to do it. If with all my seminars and all my activities-- I can help people, that's it. That's the purpose of life. The purpose and meaning of life: How much do you give yourself to other people? Do you live your life for others? If the answer is *Yes*, then chances are higher that you will be a happy person.

# Love Offering

So, today, may we lead you in our Love Offering? Give to the Lord, give generously, be selfless, and say, “I want to be a blessing to people and I know that the Lord will continue to bless me abundantly.”



**WAYS to Give**  
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**Help the Feast Mercy Ministries. Help them all.**

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

If you can, lift your envelope, and just say this prayer with me:



*Father, in Heaven, I Thank You for this opportunity to be generous. And I Thank You that as I give, I trust that You will continue to provide so that I will be even more generous. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*  
Let's give to the Lord.

# Worship!

**TL SAN JUAN:**

Good Morning, Feast!

Praise Jesus. How sweet is your name!

We praise You, Jesus!

In the Gospel, we are reminded of God's divinity. Father God has vested the supreme power over Jesus and His Name.

Philippians 2: 9-11 says, *"Therefore, God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the Name above every name so that at the Name of Jesus every knee shall bow in heaven and on earth, and under the earth. And every tongue shall confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father."*

It says the Name above every name. It simply means that anything else is below His power. Everything bows to the Name of Jesus.

And so, whatever you're bringing here today, I encourage you to believe that no worry, no burden, no sickness, or sin is above the power of Jesus Christ. Amen.

So, as we continue Worship, I encourage you to bring that in as we glorify and lift the beautiful, wonderful, powerful Name of Jesus.





FEAST BAY AREA WORSHIP

# WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME

HILLSONG WORSHIP  
WORDS & MUSIC BY: BEN FIELDING, BROOKE LIGERTWOOD  
© 2016 HILLSONG MUSIC PUBLISHING AUSTRALIA  
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# NOVENA TO GOD'S LOVE DECLARATION OF ABUNDANCE

## AUDEE VILLARAZA:

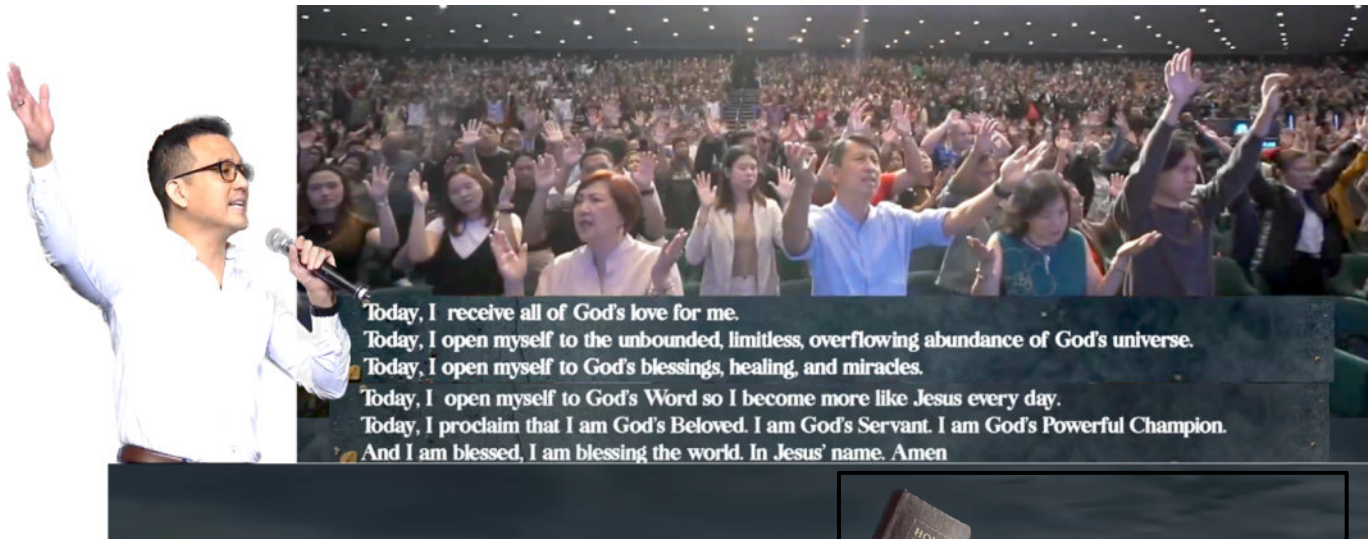
Jesus! What a beautiful Name it is! The Name above every name. No other name in this world by which we are saved but by the Name of Jesus. By the Name of Jesus, every knee will bow and every tongue shall confess that He is Lord. He is Savior. He is Redeemer. He is Friend. And He is our King!

One more time, put your hands together and celebrate Jesus. How many of you believe that Jesus is here? Yes! He is amongst us. And because Jesus is here, miracles happen.

Do you believe that?

Today, that's what I'm going to show you: How the Lord works within our peripheries. Within our midst, the Lord is moving. And I'm going to show you, one by one, how it happens here every Sunday.

Are you ready to be blessed? If you are, let's say our favorite prayer here at The Feast.



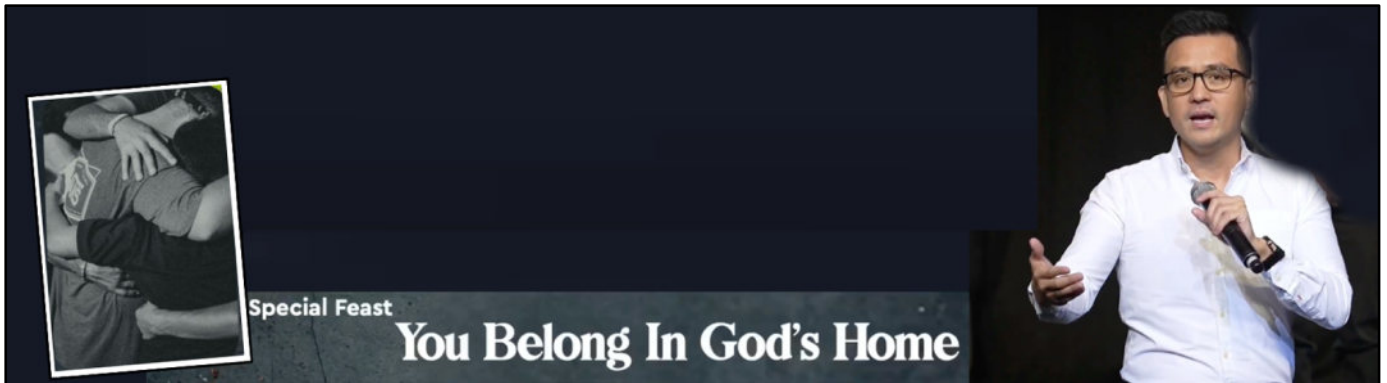
May I invite Everybody to lift your hands in honor and reverence of God's Word as we all sing:

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





# Talk



We'd like to open the Book of Luke, Chapter 4. We're going to take a page from this amazing piece of Scripture that talks about why Jesus came into our world:

## Luke 4:18 NLT

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free."

How many of you believe that?

May I share with you my favorite core memory here at The Feast?

It happened many years ago. I think I've shared this a couple of times. If you are new here, I pray that you receive this with fresh ears and an open mind.

Many years ago, I was serving here at The Feast. One day, at the end of our session-- we had two sessions in the morning-- I was on my way to my car out there in the parking lot when somebody came up to me-- somebody I had never met, somebody I had never seen ever. I knew that he was a first-timer and that he didn't know me.

Why? Because he called me *Brother*. That means he is a first-timer. And because he called me only *Brother*, he didn't know my name.

He said to me, "Brother, may I talk to you for a few moments?"

I was like, "Sure. How may I help you?"

Before I knew it, he was already telling me his whole life-- about the struggles that he was going through and how he was a recovering alcoholic. And because he was living with the bottle for many years, eventually his wife of eight or nine years, left him and she took their two kids with her.

## **For Whom Our Church Exists**

To cope with the loneliness, the pain, and the loss of his family, he became addicted to drugs. And at the time we met, he had been taking shabu for almost eight months.

That morning, he decided to take a stroll around the Cultural Center complex with no agenda whatsoever. Then he saw a group of people, many people just going to a single venue-- and he got curious. So, he followed them, and before he knew it, he was being ushered to a seat in this big, massive hall by some of the most well-dressed and well-mannered people.

By this time, he felt completely out of place. He had no idea what he attended. Eventually, the Mass started. And there was a part of him that wanted to stay but another part wanted to leave. But that part of him that stayed eventually started participating.

He listened and by the end of the Talk, he shared with me, he was reduced to tears. Because for a long while, he hadn't felt the love of God in his life. And he knew right then, at that moment, that he wanted to fix his life.

He said something that I will never forget.

He said, "Brother, do you think that there's a place for someone like me in your church and your community?"

And at that moment, you know, I thanked the Holy Spirit spoke through me because the way I answered him was like this:

"Brother, not only is there a place for someone like you in our church. But I truly believe that our church exists because of people like you. You're the reason this community even exists.





## Good News

Saint Augustine said this:

**"The church is not a museum for saints. It is a hospital for sinners."  
St. Augustine**

That's the reason Jesus came here. He says: "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor.*"

How many of you here sometimes feel like you're poor in spirit? How many of you sometimes feel you're poor in your bank account? How many of you sometimes feel like you're poor in your health life?

I've got Good News for you: Jesus is here for you.

He says He has been sent to proclaim that *the captives will be released*.

How many of you here sometimes struggle with sin? You feel imprisoned. You feel like you've been shackled and shamed by addictions. And you feel like you're being held down.

I've got Good News for you: Jesus is for you.

And then He says that He has been sent so that *the blind will see*.

How many of you here sometimes feel that you don't have the truth in your mind? It escapes you. And sometimes you're confused. There are so many things going on in your head.

I've got Good News for you: Jesus came for you. Then He says He has been sent so that *the oppressed will be set free*. Hallelujah!

I've got Good Gospel News for you: If you came here today looking for good news, here's the Good News: Jesus was sent for you. For you. For you. For you.



My message for you today is this: God's Church is for you.

Hallelujah! Let's thank the Lord. Let's pray:

*Lord, we pray for Your blessing. This is a spiritual gathering and without Your Spirit, we are reduced to nothing. We don't want that. So, we invite You to come and dwell in our midst. We open our eyes and our ears-- and our heart most especially. So that You can speak to us. May every story that we hear, every word, bless us ultimately convert us and change us. Bless us, Father. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

One more time, Everybody, let's sing to the Lord:

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



# Forum



We have been talking about our series, *TABLE TALKS*.

And today is our last talk for this series. So, I thought what better way for us to learn than to listen? Like Fr. Paolo said earlier, we listen with the heart.

We have guests -- I pre-interviewed them and I tell you, they already blessed me with their stories. We listen to not just 1 story but three stories about how lives have changed here at The Feast.

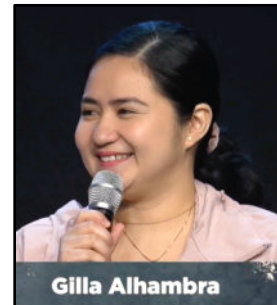
Let's welcome our guests:

Hello, Good Morning,  
Brothers and Sisters.  
My name is Gino. I'm a servant  
under Production and Admin.



I'm Reden Magdaong.  
I'm Diane, the renewed wife  
of Bro. Red.

Hi, Everyone.  
My name is Gilla.





**BRO. AUDEE:**

We're going to hear their story and we hope we're going to extract wisdom and messages from the Lord. We're going to start with Gino.  
Gino, what led you to The Feast?

**BRO. GINO:** Hello again, Brothers and Sisters. I've been a Feast attendee for more than a decade. I started attending in 2012, 2013.

My aunt and uncle invited our family to attend The Feast every Sunday here at PICC.

All of them are servants-- my cousins and my siblings are servants in Production, Warmth (Ushers) Ministry.

At the start, I was just an attendee. I was just waiting for them to finish their service every Sunday. Eventually, it has become a habit for all of us to attend The Feast every Sunday.

And then, as the years went by, we got busier and busier. I was already in college. I was studying at this Green University on Taft Avenue (De La Salle University).

One day, my mother told me that my father resigned from his job. So, then, I was the only one working in our family. Since we didn't have the financial capacity to fulfill all our needs, I decided to be just a part-time student. Then eventually, I stopped studying because we needed money for our day-to-day expenses.

I lived with my mother, my younger sister, and my brother. And then I worked as a barista (coffeemaker) at this green coffee shop as well.

Working as a barista was a good experience for me. But the reality was that the pay was not enough for us. For one, we were renting our house.

So, I also decided to sell myself. I did it protected and unprotected.

Then, fast forward to the Coronavirus Disease Pandemic in 2020. We didn't have public transportation (To prevent the spread of COVID, the authorities imposed a lockdown on gatherings, including public transportation). My assigned store was very far from our place. So, I decided to resign and look for a work-from-home setting. I became a Call Center agent. It was my second job. It was hard-- the stress and all.





## First, Burdens...

One time, in November 2020, I got very sick. I thought it was COVID. I was so scared because we didn't have money and at the time, there was no cure yet for COVID.

So, accompanied by my mother, I went to a public health center. And they said I had pneumonia. I took some medicines but they didn't work for me.

They also found out that I had tuberculosis. They did some more tests...

I asked the lady doctor what was the result of the tests.

The doctor looked at me, then looked at my mother, then looked back at me, and said, "Is it okay to tell you? Your mother is here..."

I found out I tested positive with HIV. (HIV, or Human Immunodeficiency Virus, attacks the body's immune system and can lead to AIDS or Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome; no effective cure; one would have it for life.)

They ran more tests and they found out I was already at the late stage of HIV. They already categorized me as Stage 4 AIDS.

I was mad at myself, at everyone. I don't know... Even at the Lord.

But my mother hugged me right away when she found out that I was positive...

One morning, I felt a tightness in my chest because I had pneumonia and tuberculosis at the same time. I thought to myself, this was it. The Lord would already take me.

But to be honest, I was not praying at all because I was really mad at Him.

I was like, "Why did He let me be like this? Why did He allow this? I thought He would give the best for all of us..."

And then, as I felt that tightness, my mother hummed to me this song-- it's *King of Kings* by Hillsong.

I just closed my eyes. Then suddenly, amid the darkness, there was some light... And I saw a silhouette. And I really thought that was the Lord when I saw His hand -- with a hole...

I opened my eyes and the tightness in my chest went away...

So, after that, I started to attend online Mass again. I started listening to Talks through the video *Feast at Home*.



## And Then, Blessings

There were challenges still.

After I finished my tuberculosis medication, I became drug-resistant as my body developed a stronger strain. I was then taking medicines -- 27 pieces per day.

And we didn't have any more money.

But I received donations from friends-- from The Feast as well. They donated some to our family.

Then, fast-forward to September 2022.

While I was hearing online Mass, I learned there was a call for visual managers. At that time, the point of contact was a friend of mine. I immediately asked him if I could serve-- even though my doctors did not allow me to go outside yet because I was still vulnerable. There was still the COVID-19 Pandemic.

At The Feast, we had a Light Group-- where we would share our stories, our thoughts about the Talks. I shared my story because I wanted them to know my situation-- I could not serve every Sunday.

I was shocked because they were not shocked. Ha-ha. They were not shocked because... I don't know... They just accepted me for who I am. They did not ask any more questions.

Fast forward, three months after my first service, you know, the Lord actually answered my prayer.

December 2022, it was an advanced Christmas gift... my HIV was already undetectable. It was already suppressed. Although it was not yet cured-- still, it was already suppressed. I just need to take the medications for a lifetime.

And to this day, I just continue serving the Lord. Because, you know, I thought people would not accept me for who I am, my orientation, my past.

The Feast is a Community where you are welcome. Amen.

To those who are watching or those who are here, if you feel that you are alone, I have good news for you: you found a spiritual community that will accept you with open arms just like the Lord.

So, if you're really blessed, I encourage you to serve as well. Sign up with our Ministries-- a.m. or p.m., or in whatever Feast near you.

That's my story.





**BRO. AUDEE:** Thank you, Gino.

You know, it's not easy to share a story like this in front of thousands of people. When I was pre-interviewing Gino, my first question was, "Are you sure you want to share *that*?"

Because we do have a stigma and I think I need to say this: The stigma is, "Oops, HIV positive. I might get infected."

HIV spreads only through sexual fluids. It cannot spread airborne or through saliva.

I researched this. It can spread through breast milk, blood transfusion.

So, we're glad that Gino has now recovered. HIV is already undetected and it's all because God gave a miracle in his life.

And what a testimony this man is! I love what he said: That The Feast is a gathering of broken people-- whoever you are, whatever your orientation is, whatever your background is, whatever your struggle is...

One thing that I wish to say also is this: Do not be afraid to speak out loud. You don't have to announce it, you know, to hundreds of people. But you can just pick small groups and then little by little, open your heart to them.

Because just like in Gino's case-- we're hearing his story for the first time and it's changing the way we look at how this Community is: That we don't have judgments here. We don't condemn people. We simply embrace them.

So, shout out to the Production Ministry over there for accepting this man for who he is, and for all that God has created him to be. Thank you, Gino!





**BRO. AUDEE:** Now, we have a couple here. Diane and Red, share your story with everybody...

**BRO. RED MAGDAONG:** We're the Magdaong couple. We've already been Feasters for a year now. We started attending The Feast way back on December 17, 2022.

We were first-timers and Gilla here was the one who welcomed and entertained us.

We have three children and one grandchild. Actually, when I met Diane she already had two kids. We are blessed with one, so we have three children.



**SIS. DIANE MAGDAONG:** Our eldest son is already a chemical engineer. So, now, he already has his own family. And then our daughter is about to graduate from college. We hope next year. And our youngest son is in Grade 9.

I met Bro. Red in 2005, and after six months, we got married-- a civil wedding. So, technically, we are 19 years married already.

After a few years of being together, I started reading a book, *The Purpose Driven Life*-- because I was longing to know my mission, our mission. So, I started reading that book. I also started serving in our Charismatic Community in Makati.

I encouraged my husband Red to attend with me.

Praise God, after 2008, we got married in church through Kasalang Bayan --Mass Wedding-- in our community.

Red had this dream of going abroad, So, three months after our church wedding, he was blessed right away. Red was able to go to Qatar to work.





**BRO. AUDEE:** That was quick. Six months, got married, eventually, Red moved. What happened after? I think this is when everybody needs to listen...

**SIS. DIANE:** Suddenly, after a year, Red disappeared. Completely-- including his financial support for the children and me. He stopped communicating with me. But he did not change his phone

number. It's just he didn't answer my calls. The phone just kept ringing. I wondered if he was receiving my messages.

**BRO. AUDEE:** What was going through your mind when Red wasn't communicating or answering you anymore? And how long was that-- when you were struggling to call him?

**SIS DIANE:** During those years that I could not reach him I didn't stop searching for my husband throughout the night on the Internet. I called OWWA (Overseas Workers Welfare Administration). I wrote a letter to the Department of Foreign Affairs asking them to help me look for my husband. Our phone bill became so big. I also tried to reach the Human Resources Department of his company but unfortunately to no avail.

After long, long years-- about five years-- finally, there was one person -- a foreigner working in the same company where Red worked-- who helped me. He gave me the phone number of the place where Red was staying.

**BRO. AUDEE:** After five years! I think we've got to hear this. What did Red say after you finally got to speak to him?

**SIS DIANE:** I believe Red got shocked. Because he knew my voice.

So, I told him, "Daddy, how are you?"

He said, "One day, I will go home and explain to you..."

It was just brief... I was left hanging... He just put down the phone.





**BRO. AUDEE:** Let's go to Red. What was really happening throughout that span of five years that you were in Qatar? What were you doing? You were good at hiding 😊

**BRO. RED:** Actually, when we were still in the Philippines, we had fights-- jealousy. I felt already suffocated in the relationship.

She imposed prohibitions so that I could no longer do what I used to do. In Qatar, I felt I got back my freedom. To tell you honestly, I faced temptations. That's what happened in Qatar.

**BRO. AUDEE:** Thank you, Red. Again thank you for bravely sharing your story. So, there was somebody else involved.

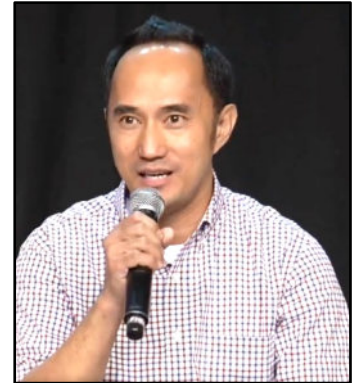
And then what happened? Let's fast-forward all the way to-- well, you're together now. Something must have happened at some point. Maybe you can share that part of how you reconciled.

**SIS DIANE:** After we talked on the phone and he hung up, I continued serving the Lord through my Charismatic Community. I tried my best to endure everything-- to raise my kids alone. I just focused, Bro. Audee-- I still didn't want to accept that there was a third party involved. I thought, maybe he just had a problem...

That was the time I had this realization-- deeply-- about myself. I started to question myself: Who am I? How am I as a wife?

Because when I met Red, I was earning so much more than he did. So, since I had a higher income, I should be the one to prevail over our disagreements. I was boastful. I was a nagger. I was jealous. I was demanding. I realized that must be the reason he suddenly went away.

Three years after we talked, he came home. Finally, we met at his family's home. It's like I was slapped with the reality that there was a third party. But I felt comfortable being with him. And we just hugged each other. Then we thanked each other for everything and we decided to separate amicably. I filed for annulment for both our civil and church weddings. Red was ignoring all the Tribunal letters from our church here, so, in a few years, the annulment of our church wedding was granted.





**BRO. AUDEE:** So, Red, in a way, you were also a ghost. You were hiding from the Tribunal.

But there is a good ending-- Why the Lord allowed that to happen.  
Go ahead, Diane...

**SIS DIANE:** While we were waiting for the annulment of our civil wedding, life went on. Red went on with his relationship in Qatar. On the other hand, I focused on establishing my own company.

We were blessed. Red was successful in Qatar. Financially, and professionally, he was okay there.

Our eldest finished college. My other children were okay in their studies.

I got so busy, I had to leave my Charismatic community. Sorry, Lord, I chose to focus on my business rather than to continue with my Charismatic community.

Then, the Pandemic came. I was in the Tourism business. We didn't have work during the Pandemic. So, I built a restaurant to earn money. I invested everything I had in the restaurant.

Unfortunately, the highest I was flying during my time with Red, was the lowest I fell. I lost everything-- money, investments, and all. I had just a few pesos left. And I was heavy with debt. I borrowed money to sustain my restaurant. I was devastated and depressed.

I knew then that Red was the only one who could help me. So, I texted Red in Qatar. I was surprised. Because within the 13 years he was in Qatar, I would call or text him just to say "Hi," "Hello," but he never replied. But when I sent him a message asking for help, in a matter of seconds, he suddenly replied.





**BRO. AUDEE:** Ha-ha! That’s amazing. I have a few comments on that later on. But let’s go now to Red. Once you received the message, what happened?

**BRO. RED:** Actually, I didn’t know what was happening with her at the time.

But I also went through trials. I asked the Lord, despite all my gains earlier-- good salary, career-- I felt something was still lacking.

I said, “Lord, what is really my purpose?”

And the answer came into my mind, “Go back to Diane.”

So, when she sent me the message, I replied because I already wanted to fix things. So, we had communication.

I decided to go on a vacation to the Philippines. I saw her situation. I used everything I had to help her. And I didn’t go back to Qatar any more.

I chose her over my career. That was the Lord’s purpose for me. What’s the use of lots of money if I didn’t have my family with me? So, I gave up my career, stayed with her, so that we could go back to our beginning, give everything to her -- for the Lord.





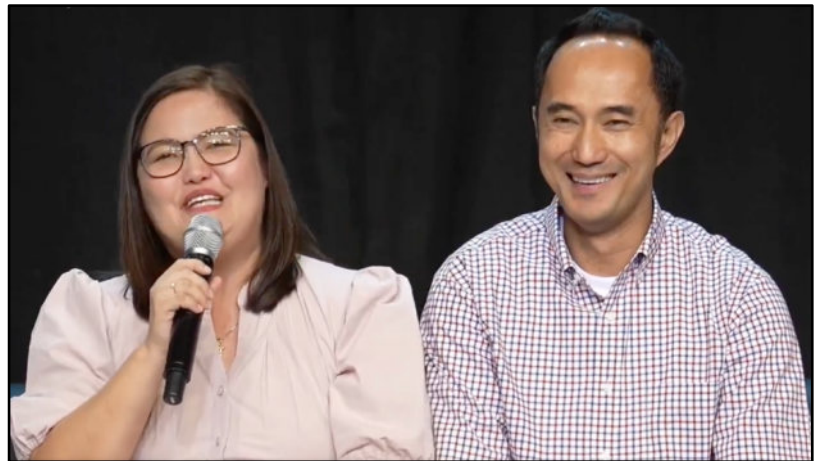
**BRO. AUDEE:** Tell everybody what is the status of your Tribunal application.

**SIS. DIANE:** Actually, we're planning to have our union again in church. So, this is the first time where, in the Philippines, a wedding was annulled and the couple will wed again.

**BRO. AUDEE:** They don't know what to do. The priests are wondering...They are taking time. Because they don't know how the process is. Had an annulment, then wanted to wed again...

But, we praise God that the Lord has brought them to this place where they have reconciled and they've forgiven each other.

Let me just mention, to close their story: You heard it in their own words. What they said was beautiful. Because the stereotype about marital problems: "Ah, the husband was unfaithful." Or, "The wife was not faithful." We have somebody we point fingers to. But we never know that in a marriage, it takes two to tango.



So, before you judge the person, you find out first the story of the other person.

And Diane said it herself. She felt like there was a point in her life when she was treating Red as dirt, as garbage. She was boastful because she was the earner, she had the money. She treated Red as somebody who was way below her level.

And that really humbled me. That the Lord humbled her first, and the Lord humbled Red as well. So, in a way, separately, the Lord was working on them until such time-- 13 years, no communication. And yet one text, after 13 years, Red replied. That's how the Lord works sometimes. Sometimes quick. Sometimes takes too long. But when the Lord replies, He replies in a miracle.

So, praise God! Thank you, Diane. Thank you, Red.



**BRO. AUDEE:** We don't want to end without hearing the story of this lovely lady, Gilla, who will bless us with her final conversion story.

Go ahead, Gilla.

**SIS. GILLA:** Hi, Everyone.  
My name is Gilla. I am 28 years old.  
So, just a brief background about myself.



My dad died when I was 12 years old. Growing up, I always joined pageants. I became an actress when I was young. I modeled in commercials.

So, looking like confident. But deep inside, I didn't really like myself. I had low self-worth to the point that when my dad died, I started getting into a relationship. Take note, I was 12 years old at that time.

About my family, I love my mom. She raised me and my brother. It's just that we didn't have deep relationship. So, I could not just open up. I could not tell what I was feeling. Perhaps, because they were brought up that way. They also had traumas that were also unresolved. So, I resorted to getting in and out of relationships-- since I was 12 years old.

**BRO. AUDEE:** Thank you, Gilla. You shared with me that you joined LLR (Love Life Retreat) right? Can you tell us about that?

**SIS. GILLA:** Certainly. Before I joined LLR, though, I was heartbroken. So, that guy, he was rich and I had a glimpse of having a rich life. So, I had that desire: I wanted to be rich! So, what did I do? I typed on the Google search bar: *How To Be Rich*.

Google showed me a video of a man saying, "Do you want to be rich? Do you want this? Do you want that?"

**BRO. AUDEE:** Is the man here, in this venue?

**SIS. GILLA:** I think so.

**BRO. AUDEE:** Okay. Is he sitting in front-- wearing blue?

**SIS. GILLA:** I think so. Ha-Ha!

So, I was replying to the man, "Yes! Yes! I want to be rich! I want! I want!"

And the man said: "Then join Truly Rich Club!" (A financial literacy advocacy with spiritual nourishment founded by Bro. Bo Sanchez)

**BRO. AUDEE:** Shameless plug, ha.

**SIS. GILLA:** Ha-ha!





**SIS. GILLA:** At that time, I was still studying. So, I had no money.

And I was like, “Okay, one day, I will join Truly Rich Club...”

I graduated from college. I worked. My first pay, I joined Truly Rich Club. So, every single day, driving to my office, going back home, I just listened to him ( to his radio broadcast).



And I just felt like, “Why is it like this? Like I am getting to be a good girl...”

My mindset was changing...

**BRO. AUDEE:** He has that effect on all of us. It’s not just you.

**SIS. GILLA:** Why, I was getting less irritable.

Like when there’s heavy traffic on the road. Before, I was like “Grrr. It’s traffic!” Road rage!

Now, all of a sudden, “Oh, it’s traffic! I can listen to him more!”

But at every end of those powerful talks, he would always say, “ If you want more nourishment, go to The Feast.

**BRO. AUDEE:** So, you went to The Feast. What happened?

**SIS. GILLA:** But I didn’t go to The Feast right away, Bro. Audee.

I was living a good life. I felt like I was living a good life... I had a car, I had a good-paying job. I had a boyfriend at that time.

So, I should be happy, right? I should feel fulfilled. Hello, I could buy anything I wanted. Although I had some problems in my family which I really didn’t know how to address.

And then, one day, I just felt so empty. Like something was missing...

I always told myself, “Why are you feeling this way--even as you have everything you want? You’re not yet rich. But hey, you’re living a good life.”

So, I really hit rock bottom, Bro. Audee. That time, I was just crying. Depression wasn’t really not yet an open topic at that time. Like, it was taboo if you’d say you’re depressed.

I had ideas... Should I go to a psychologist or a psychiatrist? I couldn’t open up to anyone. Not even to my friends. Even my boyfriend at that time, he didn’t know what to do anymore.

He was like, “What’s happening to you?”

I really wanted something -- I didn’t know what that was...

Then, all of a sudden, The Feast!

**SIS. GILLA:** I was at the Manila Hotel. Very random. And I was crying, I was crying. Just a usual Sunday I would just cry-- like it had become normal that everything was dark.

And then, I saw people hugging each other.

Then I told myself, “Why are they happy and I’m not? What do they have that I don’t have?”

Then suddenly, a woman in a white polo and a scarf said, “We’re going to The Feast!” And I was like, “Huh, *this* is The Feast?”

“Yeah, this is The Feast! But it’s already done here. You can come next week to the PICC.”\*

So, I said, “Huh?!” Isn’t it...I thought I had a good life...

So, I said, “God, okay, You’re there. I would listen to power talks...But I’m okay.”

But then God met me where I was... That’s when I started attending The Feast. That was the year 2017. And then, Bro. Audee, I brought my boyfriend at that time.

I told him, “Let’s go to The Feast.”

So, the first time, it was at the PICC p.m. session with Bro. Alvin Barcelona as the preacher. I was crying, crying. I didn’t know why.

And then I told my boyfriend, “You know, I will stay here forever. This is what I was looking for.”

And he was like, “What are you saying? I couldn't understand.”

But it just felt right. It just felt like this was what I was looking for. I really don’t know what that was. But this was what I was looking for.

Then my boyfriend and I, we broke up. But there was someone-- I don’t know, ladies, if you can relate-- there was someone who wanted to court me. But he didn’t want a relationship that was labeled-- like *MU*. (*Mutual Understanding*). I was thirsty for love, and so, I just said, “Yes.”

I invited him here too. We would attend every Sunday. But then one day, he broke my heart. That was the time I attended the Love Life Retreat. And I really thought I’d find the *love* life -- a boyfriend again-- because I was heartbroken, right?

All I knew at that time was to get in and out of relationships.

But little did I know that I would find *Him* -- Someone who loves me so much.



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\* The Feast is held regularly every Sunday at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in the Manila Bay Area-- so it’s called Feast Bay Area. But there was a time when PICC was not available for our gathering. So, we held The Feast at the nearby Manila Hotel. We went back to PICC when it was already available for our gathering.



**BRO. AUDEE:** And then something happened. We'll just do this briefly because this is important as well. Let's go to the part where you took a job that required you to be out of the country? Be a seafarer?

And I think this is when your conversion happened. Because a lot of people are thinking, "Okay, you found Jesus. Now you have a relationship with Him..."

But then... what happened next?

**SIS. GILLA:** So, I had to leave the country because my family wanted me to work on board a ship. Because that was the only way that they thought I'd have a good life.

At first, I didn't want to do it-- because I already found this Community.

In the interview for the job, I was asked, "What are you going to miss here in the Philippines?"

So, I told them, "The Feast."

They asked, "Not your family?"

No. Because this is where I felt loved. This is where I felt accepted. I just don't know... I couldn't explain. I just felt like, "Why are they smiling at me? They don't even know me. Why are they hugging me?"

So, I was far away from the Community, I had no support system. And that's true. Temptations are everywhere, all over the place, when you are far away from your loved ones...

What I was doing here--I was living a promiscuous life before going on board the ship-- it doubled. Because I was really looking for someone to take care of me, to support me.

So, I got into some relationships -- again. And the worst was, I was so desperate to find that love, that I got into a relationship with someone who was also in a relationship. And I really saw myself as not worthy-- to the point that I entered that kind of relationship.

Then the Pandemic happened. So, one day, we were told we could not dock in that port in Fiji. And this was when it hit me: Shucks, the Pandemic was real!

Because on board the ship, we were like, it's just a flu, it will go away. But the moment it looked like already the end of the world, I really felt lost, I was just crying.

There it was again. I was crying and crying.



**SIS. GILLA:** At the Love Life Retreat, I met a friend. He gave me a copy of the *Didache* (a booklet on *Daily Bible Reflections for Catholics*).

I wasn't reading it. Because I was focused on my life on board the ship.

But one day, I read that *Didache*. And I had this small Bible. I came across this verse, which was also the verse of my LLR batch, Jeremiah 29:11:

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

So, you can imagine... I was crying, crying, I felt so hopeless. And then one day, I read this verse-- and suddenly, I had this peace.

I really didn't know where it came from. But I knew that He had plans for me.

That was the time when I started reading the *Didache* every single day.

Reading the Word and writing journals.

So, I got quarantined for 30 days... And it is true. When you're all alone in a room, all your inner demons will come out. So, imagine I had to deal with myself. I could not deal with myself, I needed someone to be with me, to take care of me because I didn't like myself.

That day, that particular day, I was reading the Word. And I was just pouring my heart into the journal. Suddenly, I wrote down all of my sins. This time, no filter.

I spoke to God with all of my heart, telling Him all the things I had done-- the relationships I'd been through. all the things that we did.

Then I said, "Sorry, Lord."

And you know what?

I just felt so loved at that time. He kept on telling me: "I love you--*still*."

So, I knelt. I repented. I said *Sorry*. And then at the end of my journal, I said: *I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back.*

**BRO. AUDEE:** Amazing. What is your relationship status now?

In the past, you always said, "Don't leave."

You didn't want to break off with people. Now, what is your perspective on relationships?





**SIS. GILLA:** Before, I was really afraid of commitment.

Chaotic, right? But I'd get into relationships. Yeah...

Right now, I have a relationship with Jesus.

All this time, He was just waiting for me. He was just there, very patient. He never forced me. He just loved me for who I am.

He will just allow you to do your thing until one day you're sick of it, you're sick of all the sins, you're sick of doing those bad habits.

Just right now, I have a relationship with Jesus.

And it's really true. If you seek first the Kingdom of God, everything else shall be added unto you. Yes!

**BRO. AUDEE:** Gilla wanted to become rich.

How many of you want to be rich? Raise your hand.

She wanted to be truly rich.

But the real definition of what truly rich is *it's a relationship with the Lord.*

Let's clap our hands for all our sharers. Thank you so much for your bravery, your confidence, and for sharing your story. Thank you. Thank you.





**BRO. AUDEE:** This is a spiritual event. When you come here every Sunday, something happens. It's not just because you enjoy the Worship, you enjoy the Talks.

But the first miracle that happens-- listen to me-- it doesn't happen during the Worship. It doesn't happen during the Talk. It happens during the Holy Eucharist.

I want you to watch this video (available on <https://web.facebook.com/TheFeastPICCAM/videos/1561125117972978/>)



You don't see it only with your physical eye. But when you close your eyes and you see with your eyes of faith, you know that something is happening whenever you're here. Whenever you gather in His Name, God is there. And the angels come, and miracles happen.

And He ministers to all of us. And today we get to partake in that every week when you come here. When you go through the doors, Jesus is there. When you sit down on your chair Jesus sits with you, He prays with you.

This is a spiritual event. It's not my event. It's not Brother Bo's event. It's God's event. So, we celebrate that every Sunday. And today, we take that privilege of being in His Presence again. To respond to His grace today.

Everybody, lift your hands as we worship:

*Father Almighty, Thank You so much for showing your Presence today. For making us feel your love. And how miracles abound in this place. Today, we park everything in our life and we simply focus and fix our eyes on You. We want to be here, Lord. Thank You for welcoming us back home. We run to You like children running back to our Father.*

Let's sing to the Lord ...



1.

## Matthew 18:19-20 GNT

"And I tell you more: whenever two of you on earth agree about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them."

**BRO. AUDEE:** Matthew 18-19 says whenever two or three *agree*... In ancient Greek, the word *agree* simply means to *symphonize*, to *harmonize*.

**In ancient Greek, the word "agree" means "to symphonize"**

Bro. Audee, does that mean when we come together to *harmonize*, do we need to sing all in the same good tune? No. Because I know some of you can't even sing the tune. You don't even know the lyrics, sometimes. You don't even know the beat, sometimes. What Jesus is saying is we need to have our hearts in tune. And when that happens here's the crazy part... The passage says *for where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them*.

Friends, listen to this: Jesus says it doesn't have to be a large gathering. He says, two or three are enough. I know that a lot of us like big sizes, big following, big congregation, big audiences. But to Jesus, listen to this: the numbers don't matter. It doesn't matter to Jesus how big the congregation is. Because to Jesus, the size is not essential. The rank of the people is not essential. The place where you are is not essential. The time of the day is not essential. Because to Jesus, what's only

**Only the name of Jesus is essential.**

essential is that you gather in His Name. And when you gather in His Name, He comes and joins you. He shows up. And miracles happen. Amen.

So, I want you to sing this song as your prayer. That you're running to the Father. No more hiding. No more shame.



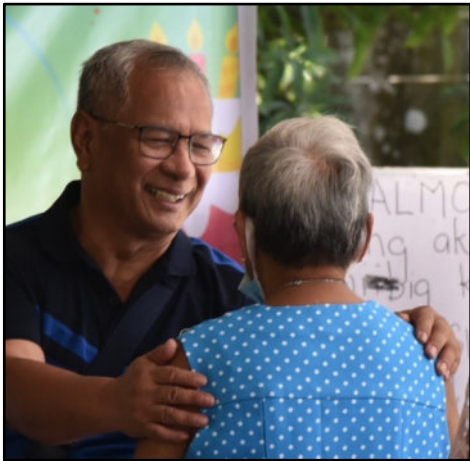


# MERCY MINISTRY

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

--Matthew 5:7

## *Giving Givers What They Can Give*



YOU see him greeting, comforting a lola in our Anawim Home for Abandoned Elderly.

Aside from ministering to our beneficiaries, Bro. Hermie Morelos, head of our Light of Jesus Family Mercy Ministry, has taken the role of teacher-- for servants of the Ministry to provide them with spiritual nourishment-- their source of inspiration and motivation to give their time, talent, and treasure to the least, the last, the lost.

Last week, on February 28, 2024, Bro. Hermie presented *The Path to Greatness*, based on Matthew 20: 17-28:

### **Jesus Again Predicts His Death**

*<sup>17</sup> As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside privately and told them what was going to happen to him. <sup>18</sup> "Listen," he said, "we're going up to Jerusalem, where the Son of Man<sup>[a]</sup> will be betrayed to the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. They will sentence him to die. <sup>19</sup> Then they will hand him over to the Romans<sup>[b]</sup> to be mocked, flogged with a whip, and crucified. But on the third day he will be raised from the dead."*

### **Jesus Teaches about Serving Others**

*<sup>20</sup> Then the mother of James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus with her sons. She knelt respectfully to ask a favor. <sup>21</sup> "What is your request?" he asked. She replied, "In your Kingdom, please let my two sons sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left."*

*<sup>22</sup> But Jesus answered by saying to them, "You don't know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink?" "Oh yes," they replied, "we are able!"*

*<sup>23</sup> Jesus told them, "You will indeed drink from my bitter cup. But I have no right to say who will sit on my right or my left. My Father has prepared those places for the ones he has chosen."*

*<sup>24</sup> When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant. <sup>25</sup> But Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. <sup>26</sup> But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. <sup>28</sup> For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

**40** The FEAST FAMILY March 3, 2024

THE PATH TO GREATNESS

MAT 20:17-28

FEBRUARY 28, 2024



## Face the Challenges

Bro. Hermie encouraged everyone to face the challenges posed by this powerful passage:>

He pointed out the real way to greatness:



### CHALLENGE TO SELF:

1. EXAMINE OUR DESIRES FOR RECOGNITION AND STATUS IN LIFE.
2. REMINDER THAT TRUE GREATNESS COMES FROM ACTS OF SERVICE TO OTHERS.
3. URGES ME TO REEVALUATE MY MOTIVATIONS AND FOCUS ON ACTS OF LOVE, KINDNESS AND COMPASSION

Before His glorious Resurrection, Jesus had to carry the Cross and be crucified.

Bro. Hermie said, "You cannot attain greatness if you don't go through sufferings...unless you face trials and problems..."



"Let God tell you are humbled... Don't tell yourself you're humbled..."

In summary, Bro. Hermie shared how to tread the path to greatness:

### SUMMARY:

1. Embrace the challenges and struggles that come my way, recognizing they have a purpose in God's plan.
2. Seek true greatness through acts of selfless service (sacrificial love) and to model my life after Jesus, who came not to be served, but to serve.

Mercy Ministry servants have vowed to serve the Lord and the people He entrusts to them.

And serving means giving the best you can to those you must take care of. But you cannot give what you don't have.

With his Mercy Ministry Teachings, Bro. Hermie gives the givers what they can give.



## **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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:support@kerygmfamily.com) or text us at (63) 922-828-9890/ (63) 998-968-4416 or Fax to (+632) 725-1230



# **FAMILY ONLINE NEWSMAGAZINE**

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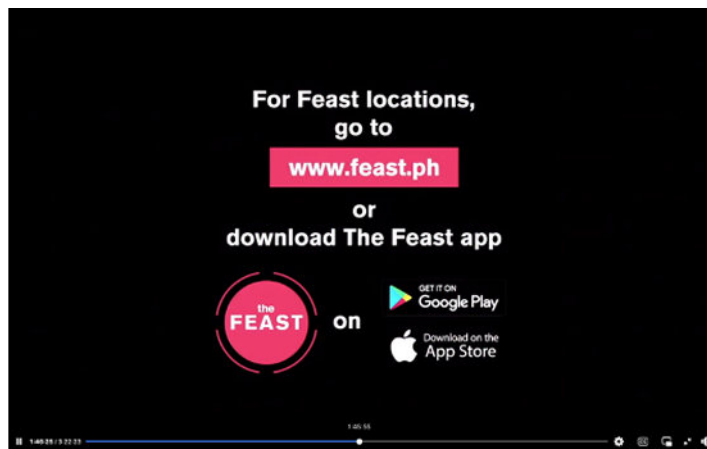
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***Go and make disciples of all men.***  
— Matthew 28:19

