



FAMILY

APRIL 21, 2024

Live Life to the Fullest!

GOD desires us to live life to the fullest!

But you see, the enemy does not want that.

In John 10:10 NIV, Jesus says:

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.”

The thief does not want you to prosper in life. The enemy does not want you to become the person whom God has planned you to be. The thief does not want you to listen to the promises of Jesus. But the truth is that The Good Shepherd knows His sheep and His sheep knows His voice.

We know the voice of the Lord-- that's why we can worship Him-- even as we face a lot of challenges, hardship, or brokenness. We can lift our hands and trust that all that happens to us will work for our good.

We can smile and move forward for we know that we're not walking on our own. We know His voice, that's why we can expect that the best is yet to come.

And so, if things in our life are not yet good, then believe, Friends, that God is not yet done. The Lord is encouraging us to *live life to its fullest!*

Have a fulfilling Feast today!



In Him,

Philip Sumera
Feast Manila Builder

WELCOME
To our Special Mini-series
Raised to L.I.F.E.
Talk 3: *Fulfillment*



Do You Believe?

LAST Sunday, April 14, 2024, the Gospel, Luke 24:35-48, was about the two disciples who could hardly believe that Jesus rose from death.

In his Homily last Sunday Feast, Fr. Albert Garong said, “When you are met with such a bold and huge gift, it’s so hard to receive it, right? There’s a part of us that meets generosity with doubt...” Fr. Garong expounded on the reason for our doubts, *page 3*.

Bro. Philip Sumera, Feast Manila Builder, says God intends us to live life to the fullest-- but with our trials and tribulations, we can hardly believe that, either. Why? Don’t miss his talk today, Talk 3 of our Special Mini-series, *Raised to LIFE*, which he introduces on *page 1*.

It’s not easy to believe something good and big, right? Bro. Bo Sanchez, with ever-supportive wife Sis. Marowe, demonstrates how to believe and commit to doing something good through “an old man’s parlor trick,” *page 12*.



It’s not easy to believe something great, profound-- like you look like God. Bro. Audee Villaraza convinced us last Feast Sunday through Talk 2 of our Feast series, titled *Identity*. Believe it, or not? Review *Flashback* on *pages 21-30*.

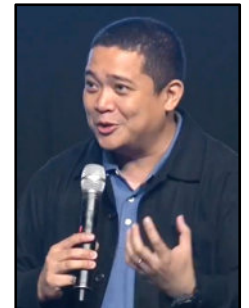
Lolo Gio was once homeless. But now, he is happy, comfortable in his new home. It’s a big blessing and he has no doubt where this huge gift comes from. Be inspired by his story in our *Mercy Ministries* section, starting on *page 31*.

You have a great gift, you have a fulfilling life, you know how to do something good, you can overcome life’s twists and turns.

Do you believe?

All for God’s Glory,

Randy Borromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director





FLASHBACK!

APRIL 14, 2024

Holy Mass



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Homily

REV. FR. ALBERT GARONG

on the Gospel Luke 24:35-48

Excerpts:

When I was still in the seminary, I went out for free time with my co-seminarians. It's rare for seminarians to go out. We were lucky if we were able to go out twice a month.

One time, we thought of visiting a new fast-food chain that was offering something innovative and unheard of at that time: it's called unli-rice.

There were 12 of us who went to their Tagaytay branch which was the nearest to us. We had a big table and indeed, we kept on ordering extra rice. At some point, we wondered when they would stop serving us.

Suddenly, we saw their manager talking to the server. We thought that it was a sign for them to stop serving us with extra rice. The waiter then went to the kitchen. When he came out, he was holding a rice cooker with freshly cooked rice. He went to our table and put it there.

The best part was when he said, "There is more."

It was the real deal.

The FEAST FAMILY April 21, 2024 **3**

Doubts, Doubts

Sometimes, when you are met with such a bold and huge gift, it's so hard to receive it, right? There's a part of us that meets generosity with doubt. It usually serves us well.

When you receive a text message that says, "Congratulations! You won the raffle. Just click this link..." Of course, you know that it's not true. That's your instinct kicking in and serving you well. Most of the time, it's okay. But there is one time that we shouldn't do it-- and it is with the Lord.

In the Gospel, we see that very well. The disciples are already getting the news that Jesus is alive again. There are eyewitnesses already saying that He's alive.

But it just doesn't pierce them. It doesn't break through that doubt that Jesus is alive. We all know this feeling, right?



First Reading: Acts 3:13-15, 17-28

13 Peter said to the apostle: "The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus whom you handed over and denied in the Pilate's presence when he had decided to release him. 14 You denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. 15 The author of life you put to death, but God raised him from the dead; of this we are witnesses. 17 Now I know, brothers, that you acted out of ignorance, just as your leaders did; 18 but

God has thus brought to fulfillment what we had announced beforehand through the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer. 19 Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away."



Jesus First Says ‘Peace’

Today, I'd like to offer how Christ meets our doubts in the way He met the doubts of the Apostles.

1. The first thing that Jesus said to them was, "Peace be with you."

That's meaningful because the first fear that the Apostles had was that if Christ was truly alive, they were doomed because they abandoned Him.

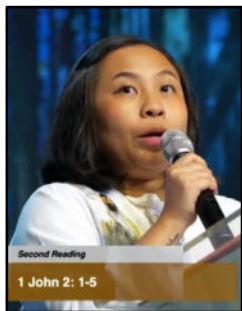
But Christ seized their fear and the first thing He told them was "Peace."

It was like Him telling them, "I know what you did-- but relax. I come in peace."

Many Catholics are afraid of Confession because they fear that we will be met with wrath and judgment.

But the Lord will always say, "Peace."

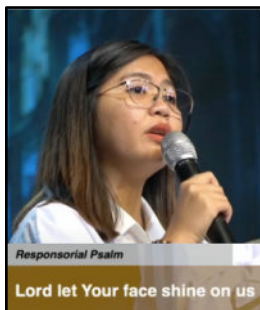
God's peace is always bigger than our sins. There is no contest. Every time someone comes to Him, the response is always "Peace."



Second Reading: 1|John 2:1-5

1 My children, I am writing this to you so that you may not commit sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one. 2 He is expiation for our sins, and not for our sins only but for those of the whole world. 3 The way we may be sure that we know Him is to keep his commandments. 4 Those who say, "I know him," but do not keep his commandments are liars, and the truth is not in them.

5 But whoever keeps his word, the love of God is truly perfected in him.



Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 4: 2, 4, 7-8, 9

R. (7a) Lord, let your face shine on us.

2 When I called upon him, the God of my justice heard me: when I was in distress, thou hast enlarged me. Have mercy on me: and hear my prayer.

R. Lord, let your face shine on us.

The FEAST FAMILY April 21, 2024 5

Second: Hope

2. After Peace comes Hope.

Hope in the sense that what Jesus does with the Apostles is to explain the Scripture to them.

None of what happened was an accident. The Crucifixion is not one last gamble or last resort for God to save us.

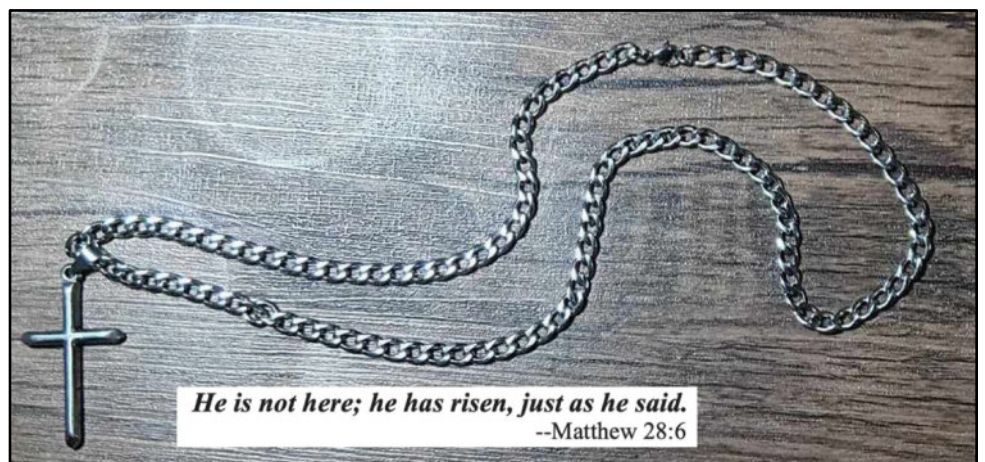
Everything that happened-- that scared us so much-- has always been in God's plans.

The source of our hope is simply that whatever is happening to you now, whatever you've been through -- no matter how horrible it was-- all of it is within God's power and wisdom. He didn't plan it in the sense that He made it happen to you.

We all use our free will. Because it's in God's hands, it can always be meaningful, purposeful, and useful to help you and heal you to make you grow.

That is our hope. God never promised a pain-free life. What He promised was that none of it would go to waste if you put it in God's hands. It would always have meaning. That is our superpower as Christians. Claim it.

The world looks at pain and wants to destroy it because people think that pain is the end. Suffering can be an instrument for our growth and holiness. It is transformed in the same way that one lifeless was entered into the tomb and the Source of Life came out of that.





Third: Love

Peace and Hope. Finally, God meets our doubts with Love in its purest form-- which is Presence.

Jesus, the Person Himself, came to them.

More important, the disciples recognized Jesus in His act of eating. They recognized Jesus when He broke the bread.

It says there how so much of our relationships are formed over food. When you invite the person to have coffee with you, it's not about the beverage-- but to deepen relationships. Most important, God's Presence will continue to be with us in the form of broken bread -- the Eucharist.

The Eucharist Mass is everything. In here, you meet God in the flesh. At the end of it, we get to partake in that Presence. All our faith practices are based on and lead towards meeting the Person of Jesus Christ, especially in the Eucharist. This is where His real Presence is found.

We have doubts and weaknesses but see how God meets all of them with Peace, Hope, and Love.

Whenever you feel any doubt, remember what the server in the Tagaytay restaurant told us: "There is more. It will not run out. Don't worry."



Commissioning of Liturgical Ministers

FR. ALBERT GARONG:

My Brother and Sisters, helpers in this service. You have been called and are now to be commissioned again for another year as Liturgical Ministers.

I urge you to be models of Catholic living in the manner you worship, talk, serve, love, and the way you live. Strive to be holy through a true love of the Liturgy -- the Sacrament of love and unity.

Dear Lectors and Commentators, you're not just readers but proclaimers of the Word of God-- to speak in the Name of God, to deliver His message of love, and to express His thoughts, His will, and concern. Only with a strong prayer life and sacramental life can you succeed in the Ministry which is based on the intimate partnership with God and generous commitment to Christ.

Lectors and commentators, please answer the following questions truthfully:

Are you resolved to undertake once more the Office of Lectors and Commentators the duty and responsibility to proclaim the Word of God in the Holy Eucharist, celebrated in The Feast Bay Area?

Response: "Yes Father, I am."

Are you resolved to serve once more the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of humility, gratitude, generosity, love, and service? Not seeking your own pleasure, convenience, and honor but the glory of God and the building of Body of Christ, the Church?

Response: "Yes, Father, I am."





Let us pray with confidence to the Father.
Let us ask Him to send His grace to our brothers
and sisters who have been recommissioned as Lectors
and Commentators:

*Everlasting God, when Jesus read
in the synagogue in Nazareth,
He proclaimed the Good News
of salvation for which He would
give up His life. Bless these
proclaimers as they proclaim Your
words of life. Strengthen their faith
that they may read with conviction
and boldness and put into practice
what they read. We ask this
through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



Let's give our Lectors
and Commentators
a round of applause.

Thank you for your
service. We hope that
your numbers will grow.

Whoever is interested,
please apply.

Welcome!



BRO. BO SANCHEZ:

Welcome to your family. This is your family. This is your little spiritual community.

I'd like to greet 100 students from St. Catherine of Sienna from Bataan. I want to thank you for coming. Beautiful young people. Thank you so much, guys. Aldrin, thank you for bringing them over.



Love Offering



I decided I'm going to give you an “. Some say this is a life-saving skill. It will save your life.

You see, semi-old people like me, we lose our balance so much. Because old people lose their balance and then they fall. And when they fall, it will break a bone. And when they break a bone, what happens is their health deteriorates.

I learned about this skill, and I said, “Oh, my gosh, it's true. I'm losing my balance. And so, what I did was I tried to stand on one foot and then I said, “Ang hirap. It's hard. You know, I actually lost my balance.

Young people, you're laughing at me right now.

You're saying, “Ang dali-dali niyan. That's easy to do.”

But, yes, it's true. When I was young, probably it was easy.

So, (with the help of Sis. Marowe) I'm going to demonstrate this. If there are volunteers here who want to imitate me, you just follow me.





First, take off your shoes.



Next, take off your socks.



Stand on one leg, and try to pick up your sock... and try to wear it.



Pick up your shoe, wear the shoe, and tie the lace.

Next, do the same steps with the other leg...

12 The FEAST FAMILY April 21, 2024



The Key: Consistency

Three months ago, I would fall about 10 to 12 times doing that exercise.

But I thought to myself, “I put on my shoes every day. Why don’t I try doing it every single day. Every single day. Every single day. And three months later, I was so much better.

And the key is this: Be consistent. If you want changes in your life, just be consistent in anything-- whether you say to yourself, you know, “I lack water,” or “I lack sleep,” or “I need to exercise more,” or whatever...

You just have to be consistent, and just keep on doing it every single day.

Now, what has this got to do with what we’re doing right now?

There are people who go to The Feast once a month. They go to The Feast when they *feel* like it, when it fits their schedule... They go to The Feast when it’s not raining...

When it rains, they are like, “Ay, huwag na lang... I won’t go anymore.”

They go to The Feast when they already need to go: “Kailangan ko nang pumunta... I need to go...I already feel spiritually dry...”

You know, they go to The Feast based on feelings and convenience.

I want you to know if you’re not consistent, you’re delaying the process of gaining your strength. I became stronger in my muscles simply by doing something every single day, for less than 60 seconds. Like, every single day, in less than 60 seconds, putting on my shoes and my socks, standing on just one leg. And little by little, I got better.

This is my point: I want you to make a commitment to go to The Feast-- whether you like going or not, whether you feel going or not, whether it rains or not, whether there’s traffic or none, whether it’s difficult to park in PICC or not...

I mean, just say, “It’s non-negotiable. I’m going to be consistent. I’m going to feed my spirit. I’m going to nourish my soul. I’m going to strengthen my relationship with God. I’m going to be with my brothers and sisters in Community. I’m going to be consistent.”



Make a Commitment

When you're consistent, here's what's going to happen: You're going to be stronger. You're going to be better. You're going to be blessed more because you are in the place of blessings. You are in the place of miracles. You are nearer, you're proximate to the God who blesses-- when you open up yourself every Sunday to the Presence of God.

Be consistent. Just make a decision every week. Non-negotiable.

By the way, this morning, I had Prayer Room. This is a podcast on TikTok and Facebook-- and hundreds of people join me *live* and then thousands catch up through the replay.

This morning was very interesting. I had two phones in front of me for messages-- one for TikTok viewers and one for Facebook.

And I said, "Hi, guys, Happy Sunday! Join me at The Feast! There's a Feast near you!"

The people started messaging: "What is The Feast?"

They didn't know what The Feast was.

One said, "...Oh, it's a spiritual gathering..."

My Friends, you've got officemates and classmates, and friends, who don't even know what The Feast is. And you need to talk to them and tell them to come...

And then, I love this part...

One said, "Bro. Bo, I'm in Iloilo. Is there a Feast here?"

"Yes, there is. Please search on Facebook *Feast Iloilo*."

Another person asked, "Bro. Bo, where's The Feast in Cebu?"

"Oh, Ayala Malls. Search on Facebook *Feast*."

Then, somebody said, "Bro. Bo, I'm a Feaster in CDO (Cagayan de Oro, Mindanao).

Another said, "I'm a Feaster in Feast Dasma (Dasmariñas, Cavite)."

Somebody said, "Bro. Bo, yung Feast sa Dagupan?"

"Oh, there's a Feast in Dagupan. It's a small one. But it's vibrant and it's there."

My Friends, there's a Feast in Bataan. There *is*. There are Feasts in hundreds of cities, in 26 countries.



Do Not Give up

I'm telling you, it's worth it when you are consistent. Mahihirapan ka-- you will have difficulty, of course. Every day, I put on my shoe and my sock with one leg, standing on one leg -- it's difficult. Why am I being hard on myself?

In the same way, when you start making a commitment to be at The Feast every week, that's difficult. It's raining-- you go? No parking-- you still go?

But it's a good thing. It will strengthen you. And it will bless your life.

I want you to support The Feast.

I want you to give whatever the Lord wants you to give. And make it a decision, make it a habit.

The Bible says do not give up the habit of meeting together.*

And I'm going to appropriate that verse for you: Do not give up the habit of being here every week-- or whatever Feast you belong to.

Do not give up the habit of giving and supporting the movement that God is doing in this world.

My dear Friends, The Feast is not perfect. And the people around you, they are not perfect. We're all a bunch of weird, strange, horrible people. We've got sins, and we've got weaknesses.

So, please be careful... You know, during Communion time, you see flashed on the screen "Take care of your belongings."

You know, because we're a bunch of struggling sinners here, don't be too safe, thinking "I'm with saints."

We're a bunch of imperfect people-- who are struggling, who fail. But you know what? We're doing it together. We're reaching out to the Lord every week and we're saying, "Lord God, come."

The perfect people don't come here. But because we're imperfect, we need God.



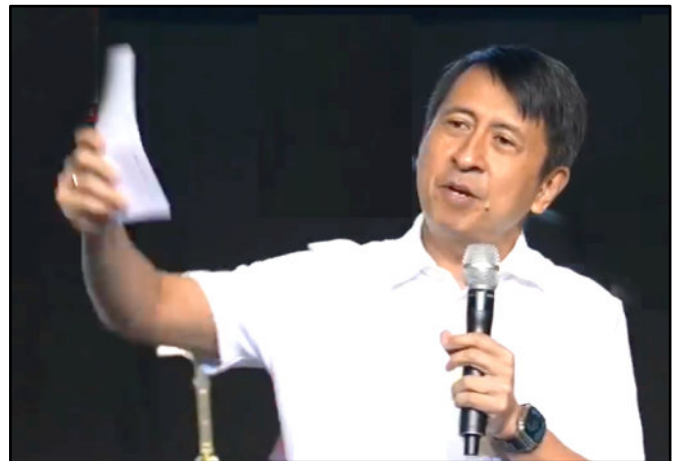
****Let us not give up meeting, as some are in the habit of doing.
But let us encourage one another and all the more
as you see the Day approaching. --Hebrews 10:25.***

Everybody, say:
 “I need God every day, every week.”
 Consistency. Consistency.
 Raise your Love Offering envelope,
 and just say this with me:

Lord Jesus, I Thank You that You are giving me this opportunity to give to a movement, to a community that is changing thousands of people all over the world.

And I Thank You that You are giving me the gift of consistency of faithfulness, to be here in Your spiritual family every week. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.

Give to the Lord, Everybody. Love the Lord.



FEAST Help the Feast Mercy Ministries. Help them all.

 Anawin Lay Ministries Foundation, Inc.	 Grace to Be Born Maternity Home and Nursery	 He Cares Foundation Street Children Caring Center	 Jeremiah 33:4-7 Foundation	 Pagasa ng Pamilya Scholarship Foundation
 LOJ Prison Ministry	 LOJ Pastoral Care Center	 HAIL Mary of Aboe	 Jesus Christ Cares for Cancer	 Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation, Inc.

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



THE FEAST **WAYS TO GIVE**

 BDO	Light of Jesus Family Mega Manila Inc. 039-7014-3807	
 UnionBank	The Builder of the Light of Jesus Family Mega Manila Inc. 000-4000-24846	
For online & check giving: Feast Bay Area		 BPI GrabPay AND MORE
 VISA	Debit and credit card giving WWW.THEFEASTPICCAM.COM/COMMIT	

Worship!

SIS. LIA BALAGOT:

Good Morning, Feast! With joy, let us worship Jesus today-- our loving, our caring, our giving, our merciful God. Let us declare His goodness as we sing praises to Him today.

To Him be all the glory, honor, and praise. Let us lift our Hallelujahs to Jesus today!

As loud as we can!

For we sing to a living God. Amen!



BRO. ZACH PE:

As we dive into worship, may I invite you to ask yourself this question: Who am I? Who am I beyond my name? Who am I beyond my past, my future? Who am I beyond my titles, my achievements, my failures, my regrets?

Who am I? It's a simple question but it's profound.

But in today's Gospel, we heard two disciples were still so confused while they were breaking bread with Jesus.

In Luke 12:24-39, Jesus said, "Touch me and see for yourself..."

Today, Brothers and Sisters, God is inviting us, God is telling us, God is telling *you*: "Touch me and see for yourself..."

Who am I? "*I'm Yours, God!*"

And so, today, as we worship, we want to touch God and see for ourselves who we truly are. I don't know what you're going through. I don't know where you've been or no matter how far you think away you are from God. But what I do know is who we are. We are His.

May I invite you... We are going to touch God through our worship today.

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

Heavenly Father, silence the thoughts in my mind and open my heart to Your Presence.

We connect to Your Spirit at the deepest level as one Community here in this place, or even online. For we are Yours.

Let's worship God...

The FEAST FAMILY April 21, 2024 17



BRO. BO SANCHEZ:

*Jesus, You are touching me right now.
Right this moment, here in this sacred
space, I allow You to come and embrace me.
Come, put Your arms around me. Jesus,
come. I am receiving Your touch right now.
I am receiving Your embrace right now.*

Thank You, Jesus.

*And in this embrace, I just bask
in Your love and I immerse myself
in how much You love me.*

*Jesus, Thank You. Thank You for making
me Yours. That I belong to You.*

*And I declare it to the universe. I declare it to everyone, I declare it to myself:
I do not belong to the world. I do not belong to my past. I do not belong even
to myself. I belong to You, Jesus. Jesus! Jesus! I belong to the Lord! Hallelujah!*



**GOD I AM YOURS
FOREVER I'M YOURS**

Amen. Give the Lord a big hand. Love Him. You belong to God. You belong to God. Oh, yes!

If you can put your arms around somebody and announce to that person “You belong to God! You belong to God! You belong to God! You belong to God”


So good. Are you blessed, Everybody? Wave at me if you’re blessed. and say, “I’m blessed.”

And tell somebody beside you, “You look beautiful today.”

You belong to God and you look beautiful, you look wonderful. Amen.

NOVENA TO GOD'S LOVE DECLARATION OF ABUNDANCE


We're now going to say our favorite prayer. Let's say with all conviction:



least.ph

Today, I receive all of God's love for me.
Today, I open myself to the unbounded, limitless, overflowing abundance of God's universe.
Today, I open myself to God's blessings, healing, and miracles.
Today, I open myself to God's Word so I become more like Jesus every day.

Today, I proclaim that I am God's beloved.
I am God's servant. I am God's powerful champion.

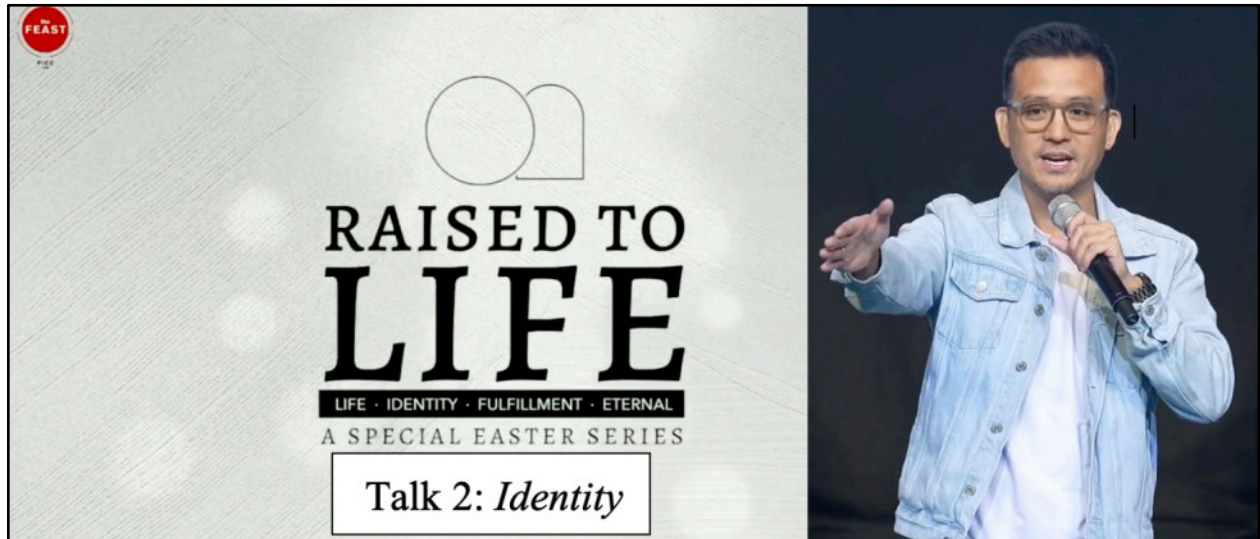


And because I am blessed, I am blessing the world.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

And Father God, we pray Your Word be spoken loud and clear. And we pray for the anointing, as You have always done, of our preacher and our leader, Audee Villaraza. In Jesus' mighty Name. Amen.

Let's give a big hand to Audee. Hallelujah!

Talk



BRO. AUDEE VILLARAZA: We are in this wonderful Presence. As we break open the Word of God, Everybody, lift your hands, and let's sing together:

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



The FEAST FAMILY April 21, 2024 21



You Look Like God

The Scripture I'm going to read is not new. You've heard this Scripture time and time again. I'm choosing this passage because it encourages me so much to know how God sees me.

To those who might be new here, if you don't know how God sees and loves you, this Scripture will change that:

So God created human beings in *his own image*.
In the image of God he created them.

Genesis 1:27 NLT

It's plain and simple. According to the Scripture, you look like God.

The biggest problem with many of us is that we don't usually like ourselves, especially the way we look. If you're young enough and have the time and resources, you'll probably have something done to yourself.

But here's the thing: that's how God made you. You were created in His image and likeness. For everyone who is in here and even those watching online, you made the right decision to come to church today.

The enemy doesn't want you here. He doesn't want you to hear from the preacher that you are created in God's image and likeness. The enemy wants you to hate yourself for who you are. But God wants to tell you that you are perfectly, completely, and absolutely loved-- because He created you.

The enemy is shaking because you're here in church and you're bound to be encouraged by this message today. When you start loving who you are and how God made you to be, you're likely to do great things for God.

Here's our big message for today:

Let's pray...

"Father, this is Your Word. We thank You that you are here with us.

Thank you for creating us in your image and likeness. Teach us how to love and appreciate ourselves the way you appreciate us. Teach us that because Jesus is in us, we can do great things through His Name. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

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



Surprise: Two Lessons!

Copying has been a practice in every culture.

For example, you copy an original song and you try to make it your own. You copy something so successful, and you try to bank on that.

Copying can be good especially if you copy the good stuff. There is, however, also danger in copying.

When I was in high school, our Science teacher announced that there would be a pop quiz. Of course, we were not prepared for it-- 50 percent of the students in the room started grumbling.

There was only one guy who was grinning from ear to ear. Ernesto (*not his real name*) was the smartest guy in our class, and he was probably prepared for the quiz.

Suddenly, something crazy happened for the very first time. Ernesto, who always sat at the front, discretely showed his paper on the side and prodded people to copy his answers. We were shocked because he had never done that before.

Of course, no one hesitated one bit. Everyone copied his answers-- including yours truly. This was before I was saved.

By the end of the test, we were so proud because we would pass the test. We generously thanked Ernesto for that unbelievable act.

Two days later, the same teacher came in and handed our test papers back. We were so excited to see our test papers. But to our surprise, we all failed. We couldn't understand. Even Ernesto had that discouraged look.

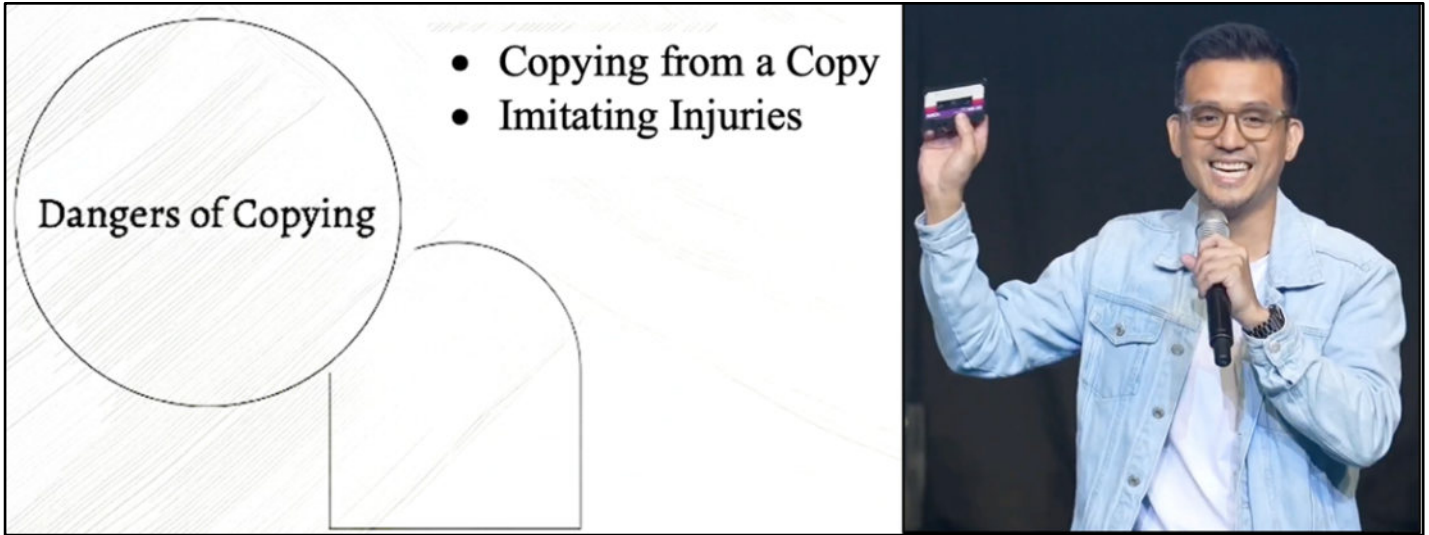
A week later, one of our female classmates asked if she could borrow a pen from Ernesto. He gladly said *yes* and told her to get the pen from his bag.

When our classmate opened the bag, she saw Ernesto's test paper -- with a perfect score of 20/20. She was surprised because we copied his answers, didn't we? Why did Ernesto pass and the rest of the class fail? As she looked closely, she noticed that each answer had an erasure. Ernesto let us copy his wrong answers-- then erased them and wrote the right ones.

What are the lessons from this story?

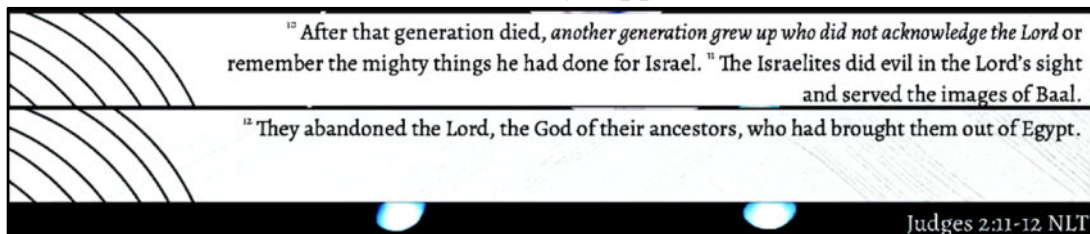
1. Study hard
2. Be careful what you copy





1. You may be copying a copy from a copy. For example, back then, original cassette tapes were expensive. If you didn't have the budget and resources, you would just buy a blank cassette tape because you could record over and over on that tape. But if you didn't have access to the original tape, you could resort only to a copy of the original tape. But you would have incoherent recording ever.

In the *Book of Judges* we read that there was a time when the Israelites were already in the Promised Land but their leader wasn't Moses anymore. It was Joshua. During the reign of Joshua, there was prosperity in the whole land. They were obedient to the Lord-- until something happened...



The first settlers in the Promised Land* were obedient to the Lord because they received the law of God directly from Moses. As years passed, the succeeding generations never even saw Moses. They had never seen the Tabernacle. They didn't know about God. So, the quality of faith dropped. They were copying from another copy of another copy.

Why? Because the parents failed to teach them about God. They did not know that what they were worshiping was somebody else's golden calf-- no longer God.

Copying Conflicts

Parents today can make the same mistake. What you do as parents, especially when your kids are young, can affect them when they grow up. Whatever you give priority to will eventually be what their priority too when they become parents.

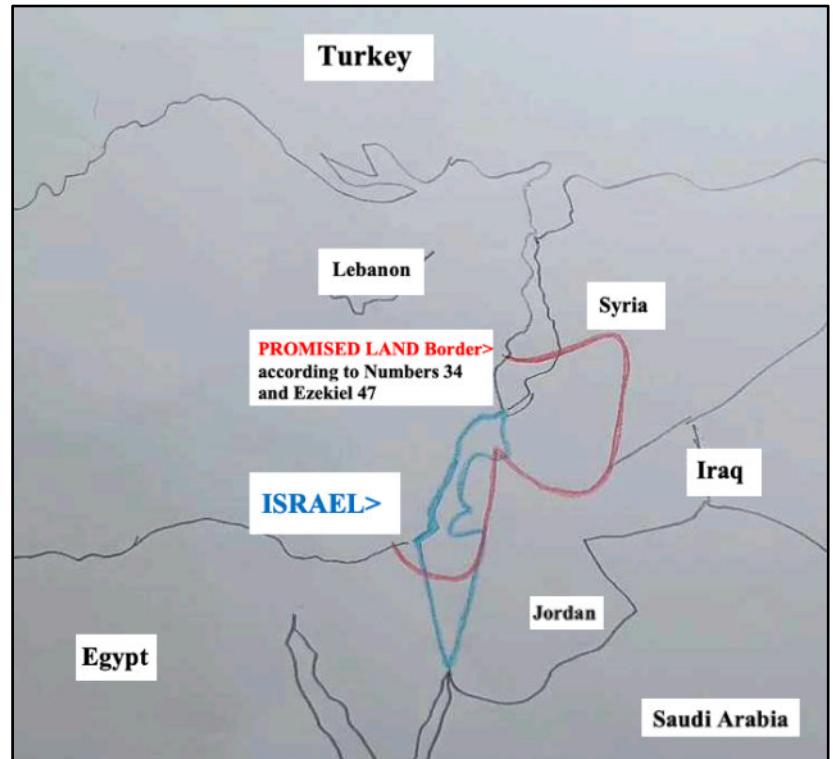
When they see you going to the mall instead of going to church, they'll copy that and do the same, and their children will copy them. Don't blame your teenagers when they do not pray-- if you never taught them how to pray when they were younger.

*Editor's Note: In Genesis 12, we read that Abraham, the patriarch of the Jews (or the Israelites) was so faithful to God that God promised Abraham would be the father of nations and He promised He would give Abraham and his people a land of their own.

The Promised Land was the land of Canaan-- the region south and southwest of the Lebanon mountains, north and east of Egypt, east of the Mediterranean coastal plain, and west of the Arabian desert.

In the ancient world, people known as Philistines occupied a small part of southern Canaan called Philistia. Later, the Greeks called the place Palestine.

As we know, to this day, Israel and Palestine are still in conflict over territorial rights over the place, not to mention, as some accounts point out, unsettled differences in religious beliefs.



2. Imitating Injuries. When we're not conscious, we copy the injuries of people. Sometimes, external factors such as our parents, siblings, and environment, create a ceiling that tells us to stop because we're limited.

"This is the way your dad did this."

"This is the only way your mom showed you how to do this."

Some of these limitations are lies and we're very loyal to some of these lies.

4 WAYS TO RECLAIM YOUR *IMAGO-DEI*

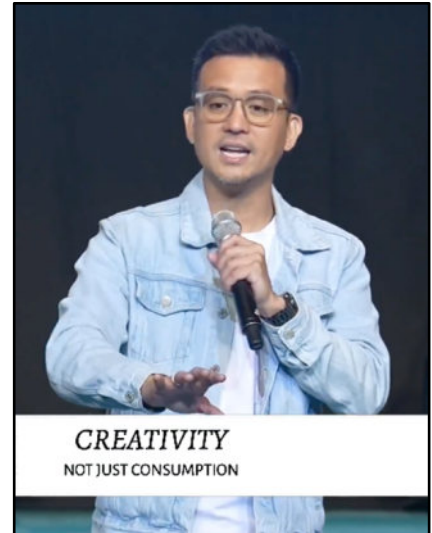
To avoid copying the wrong identity as well as the injuries, you have to reclaim and restore your *Imago-Deity*, or your God-identity.

Here are four ways:

1. Embrace creativity, not just consumption

Have you ever sat on a couch and looked at your phone? Before you know it, three hours have passed by and you were just scrolling through your phone for messages.

The thing is that you're not meant to overconsume because when you do, you neglect your God-given gift to create.



2. Embrace possibilities, not just liabilities

We have a God who is unlimited. He came and tore open the ceiling. He broke the tradition because He wants to tell us that nothing is impossible.

3. Embrace personal encounters, not secondhand rumors

God is inviting you to come and see Him. Don't just anchor your faith on the faith of another person. Don't base your salvation on somebody else's story. Have your personal experience of God.

4. Embrace character, not image

Once upon a time, I asked our Worship team why they signed up for the Ministry. They said that they did so because it looked cool to be onstage to sing or they did so because they wanted to sing like the singer they saw before.

Those are logical answers, but I wanted them to go deeper into that reason. If you're here onstage and singing every Sunday, I want the people to be inspired by your faith more than by your singing.

When I started preaching at The Feast, like many other preachers, I thought the trade secret to learning the craft was to copy from how other preachers do it. You borrow the style and the technique. I studied the way our other preachers did it. I tried some of the things that they did until I realized that I was just going to be a poor version of them.

Copying Preachers

For instance, I'm a poor version of Bro. John Ben Rodriguez who is good at comedy. He can instantly tell a joke-- on the spot. In my case, I must prepare my jokes a week before I go onstage. I practise it in front of a mirror.



I'm also a poor version of Bro. Ryan Capitulo. Have you ever heard him sing his version of *Thy Word*? It's like he is in a singing contest. It's that amazing.



I'm also a poor version of Bro. Lep Sumera with the way he connects with the young people. He knows the language of the young.

I have to take a crash course to understand your language.



I'm also a poor version of Bro Didoy Lubaton who is a good mentor when it comes to crucial conversations.

He knows about "carefrontation." (a combination of the words *care* and *confrontation*). I'm not really good at it in a face-to-face manner.



I'm also a poor version of Bro. Alvin Barcelona who preaches so eloquently in Tagalog. It's deep and heartfelt. If I preach in Tagalog, my brain will buffer every five minutes.



I'm also a poor version of Bro. Bo Sanchez whose wisdom is beyond me. Plus his K-Drama game is untouchable.

He's amazing, right?



I'm just the worst version of all these preachers. I can't be like them.

But you know, I'm the best version of Audee Villaraza.

Let me say the same thing to you:

You're the best version of you. Nobody can do you. With all your complications and with all your uniqueness, nobody can be you.



Be the Jesus in You

My message is *Be you*. But don't just be you.
On your own, you're just an imperfect version.

Be the Jesus in you.

Did you know that you cannot be played by any other person other than you? You're so unique.

My son has friends who are triplets named Faith, Hope, and Love. I can't tell them apart but Ethan can.

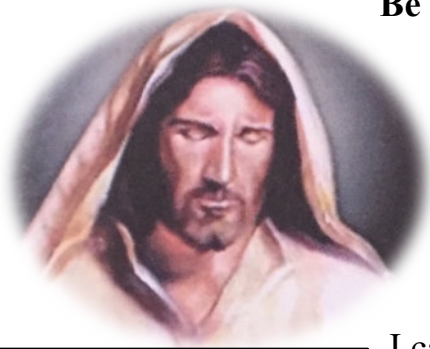
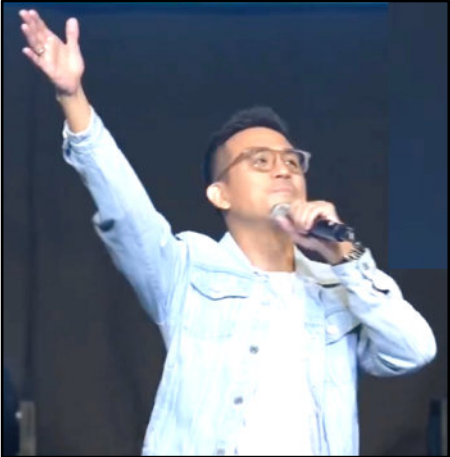
Hope has the smallest face.

Faith has a birthmark on her arm.

Love is a hugger. She's the one hugging Ethan.

We're all unique in the eyes of God. No matter what labels have been placed on you and the names that you have been called, that's not who you are.

You are a child of God. You carry that image wherever you go: Imago Dei.



“Father, as we lift our hands to acknowledge that Your Presence is before us. Help us to reclaim our lost identity. Because the world has projected all of these labels, insinuations, and brandings on us, we got lost. But today, Lord, we realize that underneath the veil, we are just like You. We are loving, good, and holy like You. We embrace this image. We need Jesus to be inside of us and that identity to be locked in our hearts, where nobody can take it from us. Thank You for loving us and for being with us. We pray for more of You in our lives. Come and be with us as we worship You in spirit and truth. Come, Jesus, come.”



How God Sees You

The Spirit of the Lord is here with us today. Before we commit our life to Jesus -- our past, present, and future-- let me just preach this Word from the *Book of Matthew*. This will speak in the season of your life when you are questioning some things -- whether God loves you, whether there are some things that you hate about yourself.

This is how God sees you:

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15 Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. 16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."



² And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:17 NLT

This was the time when Jesus had not performed any miracles yet. This was the time when His public ministry was not activated yet. Suddenly, God showed up in a voice after John baptized Jesus.

God said, "This is my Son, with him I am pleased..."

I'm telling you this is a game-changer. This changes the way you see how God sees you. This changed my life-- about how I see how God sees me.

Before Jesus did anything for the Father, God said "This is my Son who gives me great joy."

So, my Friends, listen to this:

Before you do anything for God, know that He already said, "You are my son. I am well-pleased by you. You don't need to do anything to earn my love, to be accepted, because you already are..."

While you are still a sinner, God already forgave you. God already loved you. You don't need to earn it. You just need to accept it, to walk in it, to receive it.

Commitment

Are you ready to walk in the great favor of God?

Raise your hand if that's you. Hallelujah!

Father, look at all your children who love You, who worship You, who want to be with You. At this moment, I pray, Lord, that You would shift their hearts and return their identity, that identity that has been in their DNA since the beginning. You created them for a purpose and You love them so much...

Everybody, say this: Lord, Thank You for loving me, for accepting me, for embracing me-- not for what I did but for what Jesus did. Thank You that You are my God. Change me like only You can. In Jesus' Name. Amen."





MERCY MINISTRIES

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

--Matthew 5:7

ANAWIM HOME FOR ABANDONED ELDERLY

My Story, God's Story

I AM Gio. As you can see, there's an arc in front of me that looks like a rainbow just miraculously appearing on this, my picture for this, my sharing.

It's been said the rainbow is a sign of God's Presence.*

So, I believe God is here with me as I write this-- which, come to think of it, is His story as our God of Love.

Here goes...

I was born on January 21, 1957, in Macalelon, Quezon, the fourth among six children.

My parents blessed me with a good education-- elementary grades at the Macalelon Elementary School; high school at the Arellano University, Sta. Ana, Manila; and college also at Arellano University where I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, major in Accounting.

*The Book of *Genesis*, Chapters 6-9, narrates that ten generations after the time of Adam and Eve, the Earth became corrupt and filled with violence. God thus decided to destroy the Earth through a massive flood. God, however, saved a righteous man, Noah, and his clan. Then God made a covenant with Noah: *Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood, never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth...I have placed my rainbow in the clouds... Yes, the rainbow is the sign of the covenant I am confirming with all the creatures on earth.* -- Genesis 9:14-16.





Life Happens...

Here, I sit and look back at my past life ...

I married twice.

In my first marriage, we were blessed with two children. Our marriage ended up annulled, for some reason I'd rather not talk about.

Now, in my second marriage, we are blessed with one son.

We used to live in Alabang. Then, I worked in Dubai, Saudi Arabia, for seven years as a secretary in a company...I can no longer remember the company's name.

My manager in Dubai allowed me to work in Japan as a program facilitator. I worked there for five years until my manager decided to transfer me back to Dubai.

But I decided to just work as a freelancer. I worked as a freelancer for two years. The job, however, was not along my career path. So, I just decided to go back to the Philippines.

During my stay in the Philippines, I worked as a transport manager at the Manila Peninsula Hotel. But, let's just say I wasn't happy with that job, so, I resigned.

Thereafter, I became a licensed broker.

I dedicated my life to working and providing for my beloved family.

But the time came when I just wanted to enjoy my life and my hard-earned money. So, I decided to retire in my early 50s.

And I did enjoy...I became a happy-go-lucky guy. I abused myself and lived for myself without thinking about my family and God. I became selfish throughout.

But as often said, life happens-- with twists and turns.

My New Home

At age 57, I suffered a cerebrovascular accident--a stroke. Half of my body was paralyzed, and I was unable to do anything without someone's assistance.

I did not know what to do, as my life swiftly fell, hitting rock bottom.

Neither did my family know how to take care of me.

My wife was already old. My son already has a family of his own and they had migrated to Sydney, Australia.

I did not want to be a burden to my family, particularly to my wife. So, I decided to leave her and I went to live with distant relatives who kindly allowed me to stay with them-- temporarily. With families of their own and limited resources, even my relatives could not take care of me.

I have five siblings but the first two already joined our Creator. I have no idea as to the whereabouts of my three other siblings.

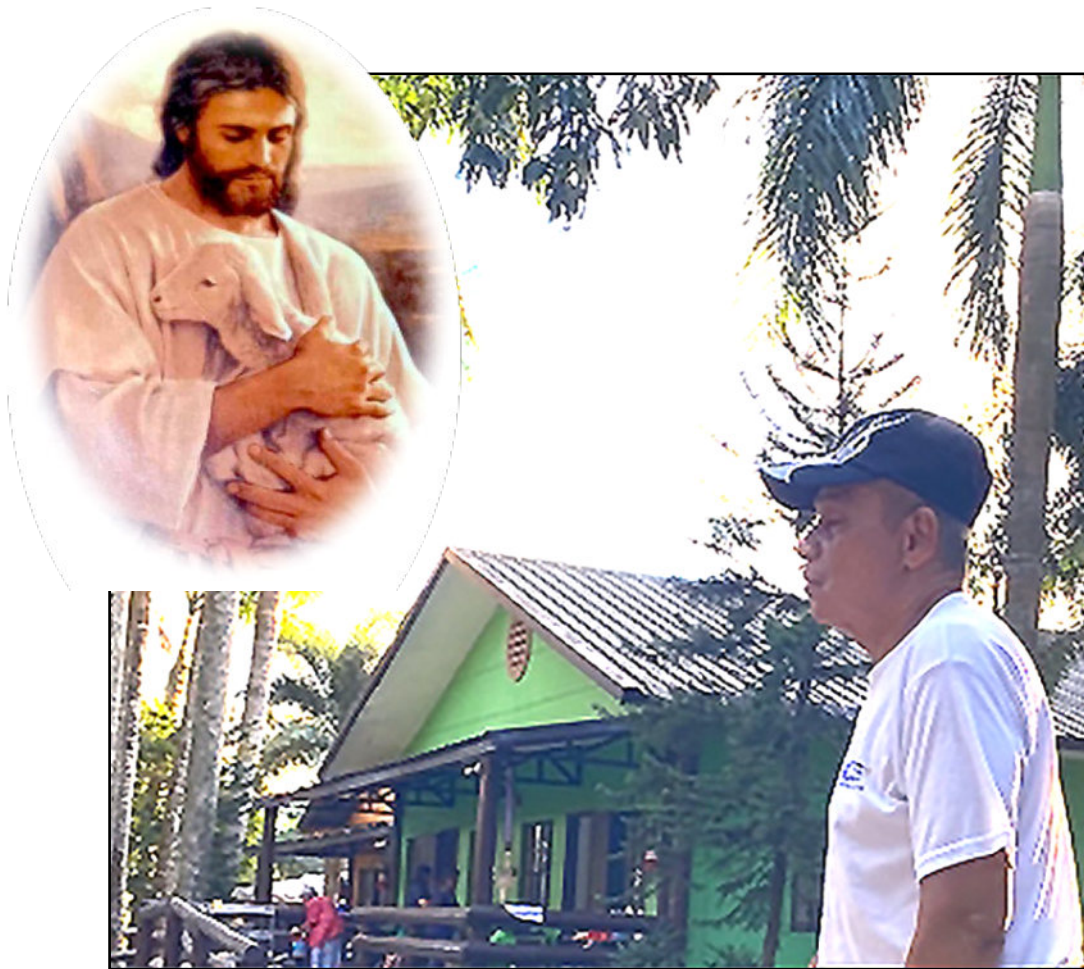


But yes, God is Good. By His Divine Design, I happened to have a friend who happened to know about Anawim. She referred me to Anawim and Anawim kindly welcomed me.

I was accepted on December 15, 2022. Anawim is my Home now where I am embraced with unconditional love.

I am so grateful to Anawim for supporting me. I've received blessings more than I imagined-- shelter, meals, medicines, dental care, and regular exercise to keep me strong.

Another blessing: joyful fellowship with my co-residents. I am an introvert but here, their love and the loving caring of Anawim leaders, personnel, servants gently encouraged me to come out of my shell.



Fulfilled Promise

Above all, I met Jesus-- or He came and met me just where I was. And I've found peace in Him through Anawim.

Here, I learned this verse, Isaiah 43:2, which I've felt God speaks just for me:

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

And He truly fulfills this promise to me in Anawim.

Glory to God!

LET'S GET CONNECTED!
We are at the office
of the Anawim Home
for the Abandoned Elderly
1860 Rodriguez, Rizal
E-mail: alms.montalban@yahoo.com
Phone: 8710-5273 and 8722-5781



Thank You!

The Feast Family, now organized as the Feast Mercy Ministries, is a spin-off ministry of the Light of Jesus Family founded by Bro. Bo Sanchez. Earlier named as Kerygma Family, The Feast Family is a unique online, non-physical, borderless, international community of friends who support each other's personal growth.

Partner beneficiaries of the Feast Mercy Ministries flourish because of your generous support.

Thank you for being with us. We pray that you find your daily source of inspiration from the resources that we send to you. We pray too that you may consider giving to The Feast Mercy Ministries. No gift is too small.

Thank you very much in advance for your gift. Our prayer is that God will continue to reward you as you give.

FOR EXISTING DONORS:

Thank you for the Love. Your monthly donation helps us to continue extending support to our Light of Jesus spin-off organizations, including our partner beneficiaries. Your gift will sustain our operations and, we hope, help us reach out to the persons our Lord has called us to make disciples and give them renewed hope.

Be a Feast Family member. Write or call us. Now.

Email Address: jocelyn@kerygmfamily.com

Website: <https://kerygmfamily.com>

Our Partner Beneficiaries

Jeremiah 33 Foundation
is a shelter for minor girls particularly victims of sexual abuse.



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



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

Pag-asa ng Pamilya Foundation
grants scholarships to indigent students.



Jesus Christ Cares for Cancer
provides financial assistance and pastoral care for indigent cancer patients.

The Light of Jesus Pastoral Care Center
ministers to those who are emotionally and spiritually wounded.



H.A.I.L. MARY is acronym for Healthcare Assistance for Indigents and Lepers of Mary, adopting the Blessed Mother as the patroness of its mission to eradicate leprosy in Abra within 8–10 years.



The Light of Jesus Disaster Recovery Ministry
provides evacuation assistance, relief goods, financial aid, and other needs of calamity victims.

The Light of Jesus Prison Ministry
brings Jesus to the Correctional Institution for Women to give them hope for a new life of dignity.



Anawim Lay Missions Foundation provides a home for poor elderly who have been abandoned by their family and have nowhere else to go.

CHOOSE HOW YOU WANT TO GIVE

1. Donate ONLINE (through credit card) Go to www.kerygmfamily.com and click 'DONATE' box Paypal I US Donations.

2. Pick Up from Your House or Office (Metro Manila Only) Cash or Checks Address Checks to Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation Inc. and call Joy at (+632) 725 -9999 loc 112 or text (+63) 922-828-9890 and we'll pick them up from your home or office.

3. Mail 12 Post-Dated Checks to Our Office for US and CANADA: Address Checks to Kerygma Family, 848 Rainbow Blvd # 1937, Las Vegas, NV 89107. For Other Countries/Philippines: Address Check to Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation Inc. and mail (registered mail) to Shepherd's Voice, 60 Chicago St., Cubao, Quezon City, Philippines 1109.

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

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

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

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

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

PNB - Current Account no. 108410089566 SSS branch

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

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

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

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



FAMILY ONLINE NEWSMAGAZINE

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

Founder: Bo Sanchez

Mercy Ministries Chairman
Hermie Morelos

Editor-in-Chief
Cynthia U. Santiago

Chief Photographer
Edmundo L. Santiago

**Feast International
Region Head**
Vic Español

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

Media Ministries Head
Randy Borromeo

Contributors
The Feast Builders

Finance Officer
Rowena Cequeña

Publication Consultant
Chelle S. Crisanto

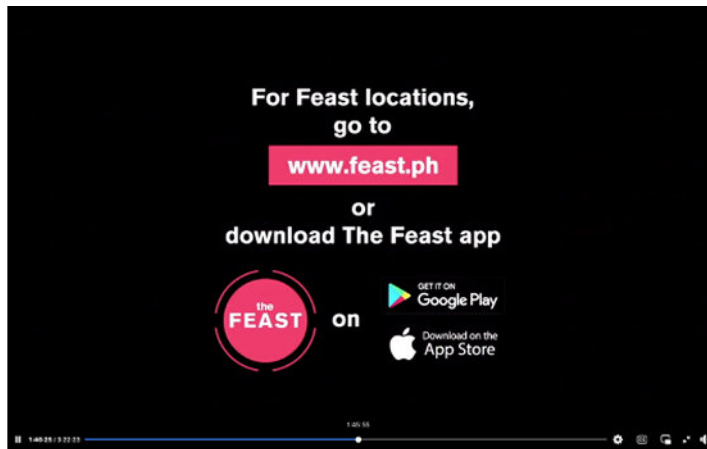
Human Resources Manager
Erika Ventura



Shepherd's Voice
Radio and TV Foundation Inc.



Multimedia Assistance Ministry



For comments, article contributions, write or call us:
Email Address: cusantiago@gmail.com
Landline phone numbers: 8725-9999, Fax 725-1230
Mobile phone: 0998-953-0657

Go and make disciples of all men.

— Matthew 28:19

