



FAMILY

APRIL 28, 2024

***You Are Destined
To Be with GOD Forever***

WE often hear: *“Life is short, better enjoy it!”*

But we don’t normally hear this:

“Eternity is long, better prepare for it!”

And that is why many people subscribe to this ideology: *“Eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die.”*

Let’s be honest. The world is biased for what is here and now... And because of this, we lose sight of the *eternal life* to come. We are so busy with worldly affairs that we pursue only money, fame, and power. But what are we truly missing in all these pursuits?

That’s why the Rich Young Ruler in the Gospel asked Jesus:

“Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”– Mark 10:17, NLT

What you believe about ETERNITY determines HOW you live TODAY.

Today, we will explore the answers to these questions: *Where do we go? How do we get there?*

Take this message today by heart: *You Are Destined To Be with GOD Forever.*

And as a FEAST Family, let us always remember that we are all pilgrims journeying together in this life-- here and beyond-- because our destiny is to be with GOD, the Divine Author of All Creation forever and ever. AMEN!



LIFE begins TODAY,



Coach JC Libiran
Builder, The Feast U-Belt
zaap.bio/coachjc
[coachjclibiran@gmail.co](mailto:coachjclibiran@gmail.com)

**WELCOME
to the last part
of our Special Easter
Mini-Series
Raised to L.I.F.E.
Talk 4: Eternity**



Where Are We Going?

WHEN he was a young boy, Fr. Mark Demanuele lived with his parents in a rural village where there was a greenfield close to their home. And from his balcony, he would see a shepherd tending to his flock of sheep.

That's why Fr. Mark said he could relate well with what the Gospel last Sunday Feast was saying about the role of The Good Shepherd, our Lord Jesus Christ, *page 3*.

Just as the shepherd leads his flock to green pastures, Jesus leads us to where we will be well nourished-- where we belong. That's Bro. Bo's message as he introduced last Sunday Talk 3 of our Special Easter Mini-Series, *Raised to L.I.F.E.*, *page 14*.



When we know where we belong, that's *Fulfillment*. That's the title of Talk 3, presented by Bro. Philip Sumera, *page 21*.

Where do we really belong? Hint: The title of Talk 4 today is *Eternity*. And we will learn more from preacher Bro. JC Libiran, *page 1*.



Bro. Ben Sanchez recommends a way to get to where we really should be, as he presents *radical generosity*, *page 8*.



Sis. Consuelo Emocling Reyes knows all about it as she serves in our Anawim Home for Abandoned Elderly. She works as a laundry staff-- but she doesn't call it *work*. Don't miss her inspiring story, *page 30*.



So, where are *you* going?

All for God's Glory,

Randy Borromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director





FLASHBACK! **APRIL 21 2024**

Holy Mass



Homily

REV. FR. MARK DEMANUELE
on the Gospel John 10:11-18

Excerpts:



The Gospel today makes me really smile because it reminds me of my youth when I was still in Malta, Europe.

I used to live in a very rural area. It was like a village. There was a greenfield close to our home. Whenever I was on the balcony of our house, I would see a shepherd tending to his flock of sheep. Every day, he would bring the flock from their pen to the pasture. What a sacrifice!

This scene truly reminded me of The Good Shepherd. It was so interesting.

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The Real Shepherd

Let me tell you some facts about a sheep.

1. Each sheep has a name. The shepherd knows his flock individually.

For example, one sheep has a black spot on the side. So, he named it Spotty. The other one is a black sheep. So, it is called Blacky.

2. The sheep listens to its shepherd. He has a kind of a call. He would make sounds with his voice. The sheep would then look at him and give him a certain response.

I can imagine Jesus as a young boy like me. He was already seeing things like that with His own eyes. Later on, He became the embodiment of a Good Shepherd.

Jesus says, "I am The Good Shepherd."

It is true. What Jesus is saying under the symbol of a shepherd is a reality. Jesus guides us and leads us. He gives us food. He quenches our thirst. He just unbelievably cares for us.

Honestly, this is something that really touches me and I hope it touches you-- how much God cares for you personally through Jesus Christ.



First Reading: Acts 4:8-12

8 Peter filled with the Holy Spirit, said: Leaders of the people and elders: 9 If we are being examined today about a good deed done to a cripple, namely, by what means he was saved, 10 then all of you and all the people of Israel should know that it was in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead; in his name this man stands before you healed. 11 He is the stone rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. 12 There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved."

The Good Shepherd

There is a bond between a shepherd and a sheep. This is what the Lord is trying to connect with us today:

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father." John 10:14-16 (NIV)

It's something so strong that Jesus is putting me in the same relationship that He has with the Father. That's how much He loves me. It is beautiful.

Sometimes, I say that in the Trinity, there are not only three persons. There is a fourth person, and that is you and me.

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" 1 John 3:1 (NIV)

All the readings of today describe how the Father and the Son through the Holy Spirit love us intimately. I cannot explain it more than that. It's so deep.



Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2

1 Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.



Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 21, 29

¹ Alleluia! Give thanks to Yahweh for he is good, for his faithful love endures forever.

⁸ It is better to take refuge in Yahweh than to rely on human beings;

⁹ better to take refuge in Yahweh than to rely on princes.

²¹ I thank you for hearing me, and making yourself my Saviour.

²² The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

²³ This is Yahweh's doing, and we marvel at it.

²⁶ Blessed in the name of Yahweh is he who is coming! We bless you from the house of Yahweh.

²⁹ Give thanks to Yahweh for he is good, for his faithful love endures forever.

The Voice(s) of The Good Shepherd

Our work is to listen to the Father, to Jesus, and to each other. We are bombarded by fake news which we become more aware of than the voice of the Lord.

If we really need to connect to the Lord, we have to continually listen to the Lord. Imagine a flock with one sheep who becomes a little distant but will look back as soon as it hears the shepherd's voice.

The sheep is like you and me. In His silence, the Lord speaks to us and calls us back.

Jesus, The Good Shepherd, is not just a good shepherd. He is your Shepherd, a special one. Your Good Shepherd is leading you to the Father.

Remember, we are called to shepherd each other. The voice of the Lord comes through your mother, your father, your sibling, your priest, your builders at The Feast, and through many good people.

Listen to the voices of good people.

Jesus, The Good Shepherd, is speaking to you.



Welcome!



BRO. BEN SANCHEZ:

Come on, let's give a shout of praise to the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords! His Name is Jesus. Come on, let's celebrate! It's still Easter! Hallelujah!

Awesome! Good Morning! My name is Ben, and I am one of the Youth leaders here at The Feast.

I heard that 20 youths came from Pakil, Laguna, for the first time.

Welcome!

Other first-timers, welcome to The Feast! We've been saying in the Youth Ministry that if you want to belong, you already do. So, welcome! You belong here at The Feast.

After this session, we want you-- especially the young-- to come to the Youth table outside. We want to connect with you, get to know your Instagram. You may follow us.

We have a youth gathering next Saturday. It's called Youth Home and we would love to tell you more about it.



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Love Offering

I have a question: How many of you here want a promotion at work? How many of you, like when you check your bank account, you're seeing double the amount that you normally earn? How about three times? How about four times?

I was listening to a podcast yesterday, about this interesting guy named John Cortinas.

John was fortunate to have a very good job. He was working in the oil industry and he was earning \$100,000-- *U.S. dollars* every year. It was a big amount, right? And he was going back to school, taking his MBA (Master in Business Administration) so that he could qualify for a promotion that would increase his salary to \$400,000-- \$100,000 x 4, right?

Wouldn't that be amazing? If your salary was twice or three times the amount you're receiving?

But the interesting thing about John-- the reason I was so intrigued by his story-- is while he was taking up his MBA, he was actually part of a Bible Study. And in that Bible Study, he was reading a book about *radical generosity*.

You see, John was somebody who was already tithing to his church, giving 10 percent of his income every month. He didn't think much about it-- he just pulled out his checkbook, wrote 10% of his salary for the month, and gave it to his church. For him, it was like his membership fee for his church. It was almost like having an S&R (Sol and Robert Price shopping club) membership card or a Netflix subscription.

You know, he was like making sure, "I'm on God's good side, so I'm giving what I can. I mean, I probably don't need this much because I'm already earning so much..."

But something in that Bible Study changed his perspective about money.

You see, the truth is, there is no fixed amount that God requires from us. And when we ask for the Love Offering, this is not a requirement, this is not a Netflix subscription.

What the Bible teaches is not a fixed amount. It's radical generosity. That's a different way of looking at life. Instead of asking, *How much can I spare to give?...* it's asking the question: *How much do I really need to live on so that I can give the rest away?*





Not About the 10%

In the course of the Bible Study, a lot of events happened.

John graduated, and instead of taking that job where he would be earning four times the amount of his salary, he decided to work for a Ministry full-time-- a Ministry that teaches people how to give generously.

And the thing that helped convince him-- when he was serving in that Ministry-- was the realization that even if you're earning \$400K, or even a million dollars a year, and you're living modestly, that doesn't compare to the number of people that you will be able to help--

who will be able to give more than you could possibly give even if you are living modestly.

You see the difference? It's not about the 10%. It's radical generosity. And it's crazy, but that's the heart of the story of the poor widow and the two coins, right?

You know the story in the Gospel of Luke:

The Widow's Offering

21 While Jesus was in the Temple, he watched the rich people dropping their gifts in the collection box. ² Then a poor widow came by and dropped in two small coins.^[a]

³ "I tell you the truth," Jesus said, "this poor widow has given more than all the rest of them. ⁴ For they have given a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has." -- Luke 21: 1-4 NLT

Jesus was seeing all these rich people going to the Temple and they were giving these big, lavish gifts. But then there was the widow who came and dropped two coins.

And Jesus was telling His disciples: Did you see that woman? That's radical generosity.



Jesus' Answer: *Radical Generosity*

You know, for most of us, we've inadvertently believed in the lie that the world tells us: *That there won't be enough.*

So, we ask: *What if we run out of resources? What if I won't be able to pay for this? What if something bad happens?*

And this other lie that we will be happy only if we have this or that..... It's not a fun way to live, is it?

Jesus' answer to that is radical generosity. That was what His life was about. That's what His Ministry was about.

And ultimately, every Sunday, we gather to remember and meditate on Jesus' self-giving love that He gave on the Cross that ultimately broke forth into Resurrection-- radical generosity.

So, just to be clear-- I'm not telling you to quit your job and become a missionary. But I just want to invite you to think about this: It's not the 10%. It's not a fixed amount.

God is inviting His people towards radical generosity. Because it's only when we learn radical generosity that we can be free from this endless cycle of trying to find meaning in things that don't give us true joy and don't give us true purpose.

And there are different ways that we can leave that out.

Maybe, for some of us here, God is inviting you to give radically and generously to The Feast, to the Community.

And you know, here in The Feast, we always have this giving. It's not mandatory but it's an invitation to participate in that -- because you're supporting the various Mercy Ministries here in The Feast. And it also allows us to use this beautiful venue to share God's Word with others.

FEAST

Help the Feast Mercy Ministries. Help them all.

- Angelin Lay Missions Foundation, Inc.
- Grace to Be Born Maternity Home and Nursery
- He Cares Foundation Street Children-Caring Center
- Jeremiah 33:6-7 Foundation
- Pay-asa-My-Family Scholarship Foundation
- LOJ Prison Ministry
- LOJ Pastoral Care Center
- HAB, Mary of Abna
- Jesus Christ Cares for Cancer
- Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation, Inc.

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FEAST

Making This World the Eden of Abundance

So, I just want to leave you with that, to think about it, and ask what is God asking you to give today.

And I just want to invite you to consider radical generosity as we have our giving.

So, I invite you to raise your Love Offering envelope as we pray:

Jesus, our prayer is that You use us with the little that we have, with whatever we can give, Lord. Teach us to be radically generous just like You-- so that we can bless more people and we can make this world a better place that embodies Your abundance-- the Eden abundance that You created this world to have.

My little giving is my way of participating in that. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.



WAYS TO GIVE

BDO Light of Jesus Family Mega Manila Inc. 039-7014-3807

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Worship!

EXHORTATIONS:

SIS. CHESKA FLORES:

Good Morning, Feast! It's a beautiful Sunday morning to be living in God's love. So, why don't we stand up and praise the One who has never ever stopped loving us?

Church, I invite you to focus your days on the very reason we're here. And that is to declare peace, glory, and honor to our God, our Lord, Lord of all, King of Kings, who made Salvation possible for you and me.

We're still celebrating Easter. And right at this very moment, we remember, we recall the greatest story that has ever been told. That the same Spirit that rolled the stone to open the tomb ... the same Spirit who conquered the grave... the same Spirit that conquered death... is the same Spirit that lives within each one of us.

Our risen Christ is here. He is here. Let's give Him access to fill in every void, every lack, every gap, and everything else that's preventing us from fully experiencing the Resurrection. That is our prayer in Jesus' Name. Amen.





**PRAISE THE FATHER
PRAISE THE SON**



FEAST BAY AREA WORSHIP

KING OF KINGS

HILLSONG WORSHIP
WORDS & MUSIC BY: BROOKE LIGERTWOOD, JASON INGRAM, SCOTT LIGERTWOOD
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BRO. BO SANCHEZ:

Every knee will bow,
every tongue will
confess, every heart will
bow, every area of our
life will kneel before the
Lord who *is* our King
and who *is* the Savior of
the world.

*So, here we are,
Jesus, we are Yours. We
belong to You. We cry
out with our voice, with every bit of energy and strength we have, oh, every muscle,
and every bone, and every cell in our body cries out: “Jesus, I belong to You. I
belong to You.”*

From the front row to the back row, from the right to the left, every part of this
room, come on, cry out: “Jesus, I belong to You!”

Say it: “Jesus, I belong to You!”

Say it: “Jesus, I belong to You!”

One more time: “Jesus, *I* belong to You.”



NOVENA TO GOD'S LOVE DECLARATION OF ABUNDANCE



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.

Talk



INTRODUCTION

BRO. BO SANCHEZ:

Give the Lord a big hand, Everybody. God is here. God is in our midst.
Thank You, Father.

I want you to give each other a big hug or a big Hi-5, and just tell that person:
“God is here. God is here.”

So, good. Amen. We need to give a big hand to our Worship team.

Thank you so much, guys.

Amazing. So beautiful. And yes,
as Fr. Mark said, hundreds
of people serve us every Sunday.
And whether they be here
in Worship, or whether they
be the ushers or members
of the Warmth Ministry,
or the Security, or the people taking
care of our kids, the Awesome Kids
Ministry-- let's give them another
big hand.

Thank you. Thank you so much.





The Dreamer

How many of you believe that God made you a dreamer? You are a dreamer. He designed you to dream. Raise your hand if you believe in that.

You see, we are made in God's image and likeness. Therefore, if you are a dreamer, I have a suspicion that God is a dreamer. What do you think?

Is God a dreamer? He dreams. He has a vision for you. He sees your future. And he sees it to be good. Do you believe in that? That your future is good?

God has a dream for your life. Oh, believe in that. That is so good.

Now, there's something I need you to know. You know, that's how I sign my letters-- most of them, by the way, 90% of the time.

I say, *May your dreams come true.*

There are two kinds of dreams. There are small dreams and then there are big dreams.

When I was a small boy, 10 years old, I had a favorite TV show: *Voltes V*. Now those of you my age, you know that. Voltes V is a robot -- five connected spaceships. I'd even memorized the theme song...

Tatoe arashi ga hukou tomo... (Though the storm should blow...) Never mind 😊

And I wanted to have my own Voltes V robot. My problem was it was incredibly expensive. And I couldn't buy it, of course.

But then my classmate, he was a rich kid. One day, he came to class, and he had in his bag a Voltes V robot.

And my classmates, I mean, we were just so awed.

We were worshipping that thing and we said, "Oh, my gosh, there it was!"



Google Images

Dreams: Voltes V... Mercedes Benz

And then, the years went by, I grew up...

One day, my wife Marowe and I were in Japan, walking on the streets. And on one of those streets, we saw in one of the stores a Voltes V robot.

And my wife said, "You have the money now, Bo. Buy it."

We went in, we looked at it... Oooh, aaah, made of steel! Wonderful! The five spaceships connect to one big robot. Oh, amazing...

"I won't buy it," I said.

And my wife said, "Wwwwhy?"

She was insisting, "You know, you have the money. Yes, it's expensive but now you've got the money. Buy it! It was a dream-- the dream you've had ever since you were a kid. You couldn't buy it before. You can buy it now. Buy it!"

"No."

"Why?"

"What will I do with it? I'd put it in my house. Display it. It will just gather dust... No!"

You know, there are times I realize this: That what you want now, you might not want it in the future. Yes, or no? Because what you want now, you realize later on... you've grown up. And when you grow up, your dreams change.

Some of our dreams are small. We think they're big, but actually, they're small -- in the bigger scheme of things. And now, I don't want it. I would rather spend my money elsewhere. Like bringing my family to a meal, or bringing my friends on a trip, and we enjoy together, and we laugh together. These are my values now.

These are my priorities now.

I learned this from my first mentor, my father Gene. You see, he loved cars. And he became an executive of the biggest company at that time. And so, they would give him a car, a brand-new car every four years. And he loved that car. And then the next four years, they would give him another car. And it was brand-new. He would clean his car. He really liked cars.

Then, he retired. No more brand-new cars.

But he still had a dream: a Mercedes Benz.

He wanted to own one. It was his lifelong dream.

Then a friend of ours came and he said, "Bro. Gene, I know that it is your lifelong dream to have a car. A Mercedes Benz. Buy mine. "

So, he was selling his Benz to my Dad. And then my Mom approached me and whispered, "Oh, no... Oh, no... Your Dad is going to buy a Benz... Isn't that expensive to maintain?"



Dreams: Benz and LOJ

Dad had the money to buy that Benz. And he looked and sat in the car on the seat, he tried it out, he got out of the car, closed the door...

And he said to his friend, "Thank you very much. I won't take it."

When I became an entrepreneur and I had the money to buy a Benz for my dad... My dad was already in Heaven.

And it was this regret: "I wish I should have been an entrepreneur earlier... Then I would have been able to have that money..."

Children, would you want to fulfill the dreams of your father and mother? Would you want to do that? Wouldn't that be sweet?

Yet, that was my regret. I said, "Sayang-- Too bad. I wish I was the one who should have bought a Benz for my father."

But too late.

I went to prayer. I brought that before the Lord and I sensed the Lord speak to my heart: "Ano ka ba? Hey, what your dad is driving now is a spaceship."

Do you know why my Dad did not buy that Benz? At that time, he was already serving the Lord. He was giving his life to God. He was very active in the Ministry. He would rather spend his money on Ministry. The Light of Jesus Community was



very, very small. The Feast was small. But he was so active in that and he would rather spend for that than for a Benz.

I learned what it meant to have small dreams and big dreams from my Dad. My Dad knew the difference. Yes, he liked that Benz but he was not attached to it. It was a small dream. His bigger dream was to serve the Lord and use his money for the Ministry.

I need to say this to you. Parents, do not pass on your small dreams to your children. You want your son to be an engineer. You want your daughter to be a doctor. Don't pass your dreams to your children. Pass on the big dreams.

I told my sons: "I have only one dream for both of you: that you serve God."

That's it. My big dream.

No small dreams. Big dreams. Amen.

...And the Big Dream

So, I have only one message for you. We're going to be talking about *Fulfillment*. Philip Sumera will be giving the talk.

I just need to say this to you. Be honest with me. You want stuff. You want some things. Even not stuff. You have dreams for your life and for your future-- whether it be a job, whether it be a relationship, whatever...

May I announce this: All of those are small dreams. Do not be attached to them. Be attached only to your big dream-- which is to love God and to serve God.

Amen.

Am I saying your small dreams will not happen? I'm not saying that. All I'm saying is don't be attached to them. Be attached to your big dream.

Actually, don't be attached to your big dream. Be attached to the Dreamer who gave you life and who gave you your big dream.

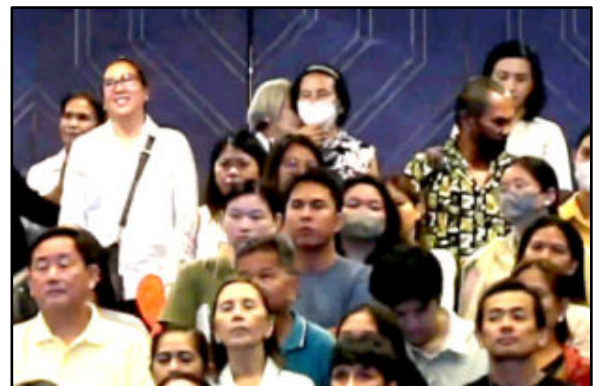


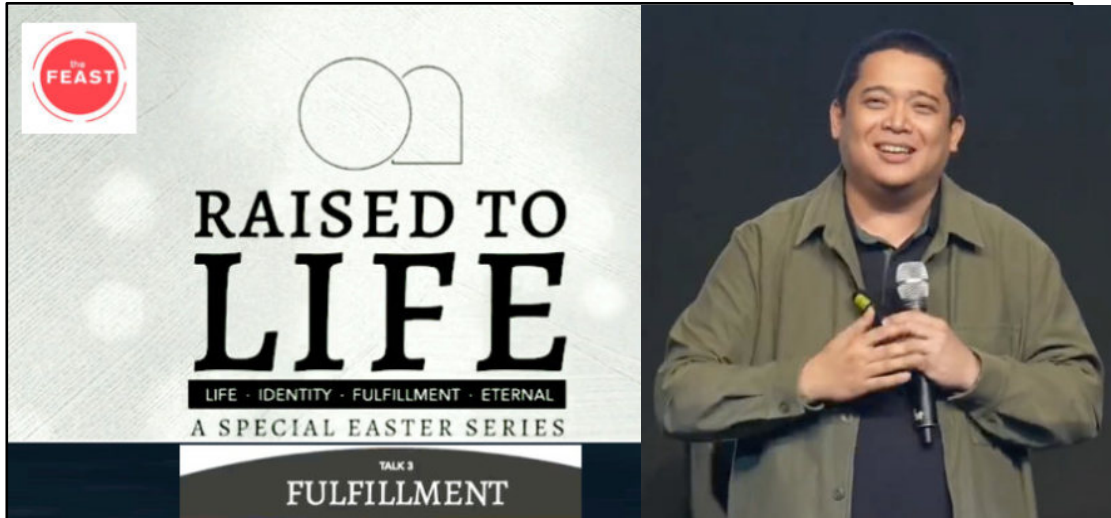
Extend your hand ...

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

I need to greet all those who graduated from our Jesus Encounter yesterday-- about a hundred of you. I just want to say thank you. I hope that next time those of you who did not join, you come and join us in our Jesus Encounter-- it's a whole day where the purpose is yes, to encounter Jesus.

Philip, take it away...





BRO. PHILIP SUMERA:

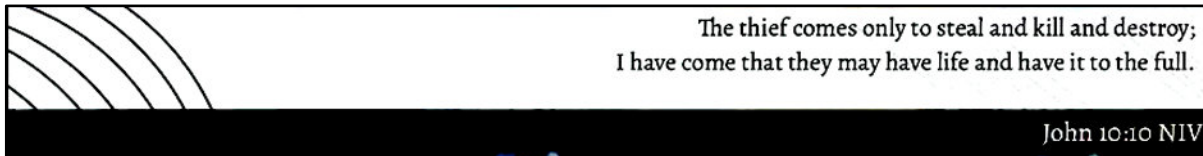
Excerpts:

In today's talk, we will try to answer the question:
I believe that God wants us to live our life to the fullest.

Why are we here?

When I prayed for a Word for this talk, the Holy Spirit led me to John 10:10. And our Gospel today happens to be John 10: 11-18! I don't know about you, but I believe God has an agenda today and His agenda is *you*.

Let's go to our Word:



The thief does not want you to prosper in life. He does not want you to become the person that God has planned you to be. I realized that a thief would not come into an empty house. A thief would not come into a house with stuff of no real value. It only means that the thief is targeting *you* because there is something precious within you...

The enemy has no power against God. So, what will he do? He will hurt God by hurting the people whom God loves -- and that's us. That's what the thief wants to rob from us -- that love, connection, and faith. The thief does not want you to listen to the promises of Jesus.



The Good News is that the Good Shepherd is with us, journeying with us, and caring for us. The Good Shepherd knows His sheep and His sheep knows His voice.

We know the voice of the Lord. That's why we can come here at The Feast every Sunday despite the hardships of life.

I just had done my grocery shopping, and I was shocked by my bill.

Life is difficult but we have the confidence to stand here and raise our hands when we worship Him because we know the voice of God.

That voice is telling us: "I got you. You're my child. You're my beloved. I'm here for you. I'm taking care of you. I'm going to leave the 99 sheep for you."

That's why we have the confidence to worship Him, love Him, and say: "I am here, Lord. It's difficult but I believe in you."

We can declare that indeed, the best is yet to come.

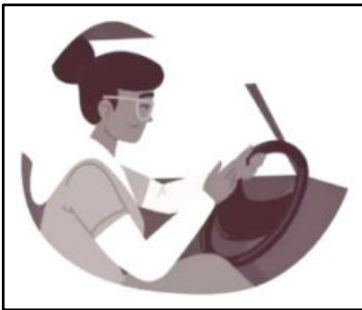
My beloved Friends, believe me when I say that when things are not yet good, then God is not yet done. You just need to listen to that voice. You just need to be with the Good Shepherd.

Our one big message today is *God wants you to live life to the fullest.*

Two Mothers and Some Gossips

I have a story about two mothers and about Mariteses (slang for gossips, stemming from what they usually say when they want to know the latest gossip: “*Mare*, ano ang *latest*?-- Friend, what is the *latest*?”)

The first mom is hardworking. She wakes up early to prepare the household before she leaves for work.



One day, while she was on the way to her car in a parking lot to leave for work, a bunch of Mariteses saw her.

They started mumbling, "Money is her top priority. She has no time for her family!"

On the other side of the parking lot is the second mom, a housewife, playing with her children.

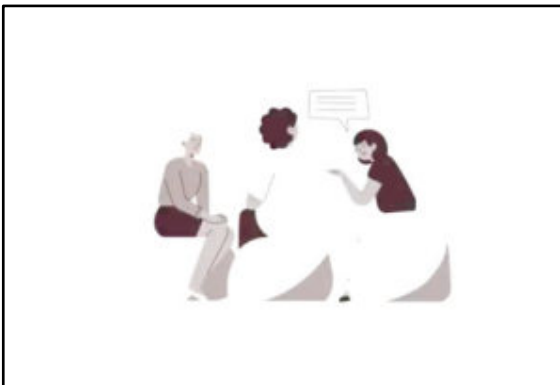
When the kids got tired, they dozed off. This mother would then start cleaning the house and preparing food for the family.

This time, the Mariteses remarked, "She doesn't work and only stays at home. I pity her husband!"



What the Mariteses do not know is that the housewife had a dream and that was to work and even go abroad. But she set aside her dream for a bigger purpose.

On the other hand, the working mom desires to spend quality time with the kids but she also worries about the future--so she works hard to provide for the kids.



Question: Who do you think has the more fulfilling life? The housewife or the working mom?

Friends, the answer is both. My definition of a fulfilled life is living a life with deep meaning.





Two Traps Against a Fulfilled Life

The meaning of *living a full life* is not the same with everybody. What we find fulfilling differs from others because it's based on values, beliefs, and satisfaction.

Whenever my wife Sally watches a Korean Drama on television, she feels a sense of fulfillment. She still gets romantically excited even if she has seen that drama 10 times already. Sometimes, she would ask me to join her and I would reluctantly comply. In that area, I think I need more mentoring from Bro. Bo (who earlier said he also watches K-Drama with his wife Sis. Marowe)☺

But whenever I watch *X-Men '97*, *NBA*, and action movies, I get thrilled!

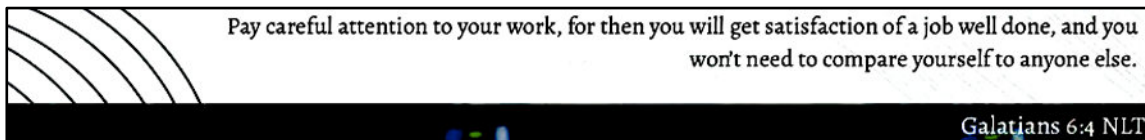
Whenever I ask my wife to join me, she gladly declines and says, "I leave you in peace."

We have different definitions of *living a fulfilled life*.

Two traps against getting to that fulfilled life-- two Cs:

1. Comparing. You can't live your life to the fullest if your attention is focused on what other people are achieving -- for all that you will feel is envy, jealousy. All that you will recognize is what you're lacking.

Know that God has plans for you.



2. Controlling. One day, I was coaching a college student. She told me that she doesn't like the course she is taking now. She preferred Marketing but her parents told her to take up Nursing. Since her parents would pay for her tuition, she didn't have a choice. Her parents believe that she can earn more money if she becomes a nurse and that she can even work abroad.

Parents, a fulfilled life is different for everyone-- even within the family. I understand the situation of the parents because I am now a parent myself. We want only what's best for our children. But then again, their definition of a fulfilled life may be different from ours.

Why is it that we need to pursue this fulfilled life? Because soon, we will all die.

There was one priest who said in his homily, "Some of us think we have enough time-- but we don't have much time."

One day, I was reading an article about a doctor who normally gives first aid to patients in an ambulance car.

The doctor said that patients who are in a 50/50 condition would normally ask: "Did I live a fulfilling life? Have I loved enough?"

The 5 Ps to a Fulfilled Life

There are a lot of burdens in life that I don't want to have such as sickness, worries, misunderstandings, and stress. But most of all, I don't want regrets.

That's why all the more I want to live my life to the fullest.

So, *how*? How do we live a full life?

Let's look at the 5 Ps to a Full life:

1. Passion. My task as a Feast Builder is not easy. I must attend to my family but at the same time, I have to attend to my flock.

One day, I was invited to give a talk in Baguio City. I needed to lead a recollection consecutively for nine days. It was challenging. It was tiring.

But at the end of the day, I was happy. That's *passion*.

Put your heart into what you do. You do not know who is watching you.

You do not know the impact of your influence.



2. Personal Growth. Joseph the Dreamer* had a hard life. He was betrayed by his siblings. He was sold to become a slave. He was even jailed. But long story short, Joseph the Dreamer ended up as the Pharaoh's second-in-command officer.

Why? Because he never complained about the hardships he went through.

Personal growth is embracing every scenario-- even the hard ones-- in life as an opportunity for growth. In every difficulty, seek what you can learn from it.

Personal growth is important for self-discovery, confidence, and resiliency.

Let's check ourselves. Are we growing or are we complaining?

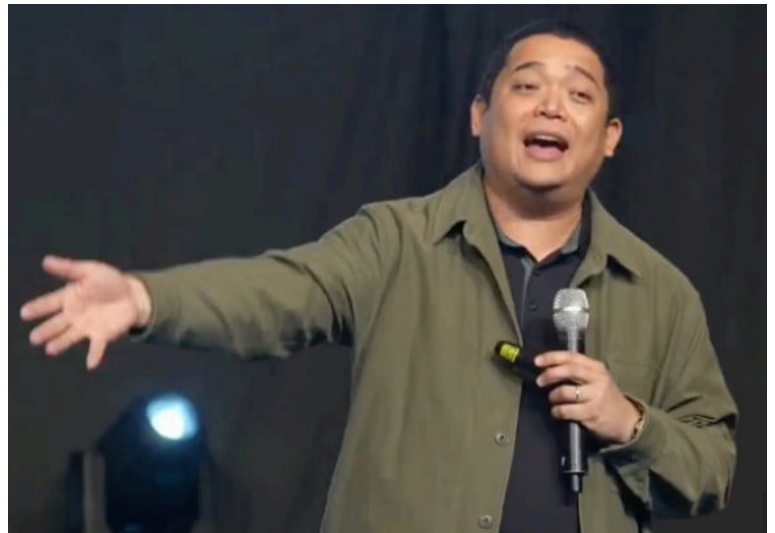


***Editor's Note:** Joseph comes from the line of Abraham, the father of all nations. Abraham's son, Isaac, had a son, Jacob, who had 12 sons-- one of whom was Joseph. Jacob favored Joseph because he seemed to do the right thing-- and, more important, for the right reason. So, his brothers were jealous of him, especially when their father gave Joseph a colored cloak.

Moreover, Joseph had a gift: He could interpret dreams with the help of God. And one of his dreams was that his brothers would one day bow to him. Irked, they sold him to slavery in Egypt. In Egypt, his master was Potiphar, the captain of the Egyptian Pharaoh's guards, said to be the one who purchased Joseph. -- Genesis 37: 5-10

3. Positive Relationships.

Joseph the Dreamer was seduced by the wife of Potiphar-- his master. But Joseph was so committed and loyal to Potiphar that he rejected the wife's advances. Embarrassed, the wife lied to Potiphar, accusing Joseph of taking advantage of her.



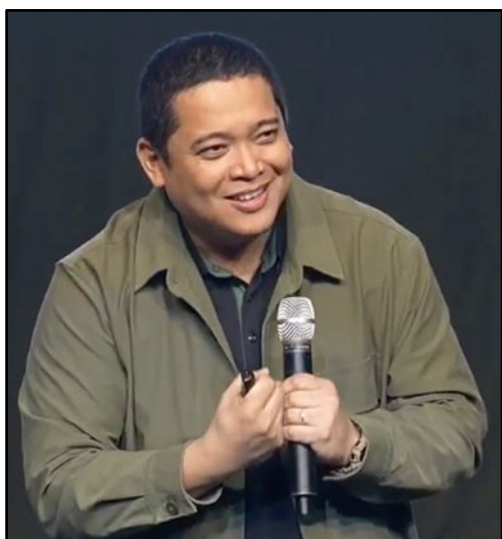
As a result, Potiphar put Joseph behind bars. But while in jail, he formed connections with everyone there. Something like a version of our Feast Light Group.

Also, focused on maintaining harmonious relationships, Joseph forgave his brothers.



Later, Joseph interpreted a dream of the Pharaoh, predicting famine in the country.

And so, the Pharaoh appointed him governor in preparation for the famine.



How To Forgive

I just have to tell this story...

One day, I was invited to lead a retreat for senior high school students.

But here's the catch: the school admin told me: "Bro. Lep, not all students are Catholic. Please don't talk that much about Jesus."

I was startled because whenever I conduct retreats, the highlight of my talk is always Jesus.

So, I prayed about it and I came up with a plan to not talk about Jesus but to introduce Jesus by talking about forgiveness and about loving others.

During the retreat, I never said the name of Jesus but my talk was all pointing to Him. After the Ministry time, everyone was crying.

Suddenly, a beautiful girl approached me and said, "Bro. Lep, I am curious. How do you truly forgive?"

I had a one-on-one session with her and I learned of her story. She confessed that she was sexually molested by her grandfather. My heart was broken not only because of what she went through but also because she was asking about forgiveness despite what she went through. She said that her grandfather was already old and that she wanted him to still have a fulfilled life despite what happened. That's grace.

What's more amazing was that she was one of the non-Catholic students.



4. Purpose. When the Pharaoh entrusted Joseph with the huge role of leading the entire kingdom, Joseph did it with dedication because he had a purpose.

Purpose provides direction. It gives you meaning and a sense of significance. If you're still struggling to know your purpose, you just need to copy Christ.

At the end of the day, our purpose is just to love. Start with those nearest to you.



5. Present. Being fully mindful in the moment.

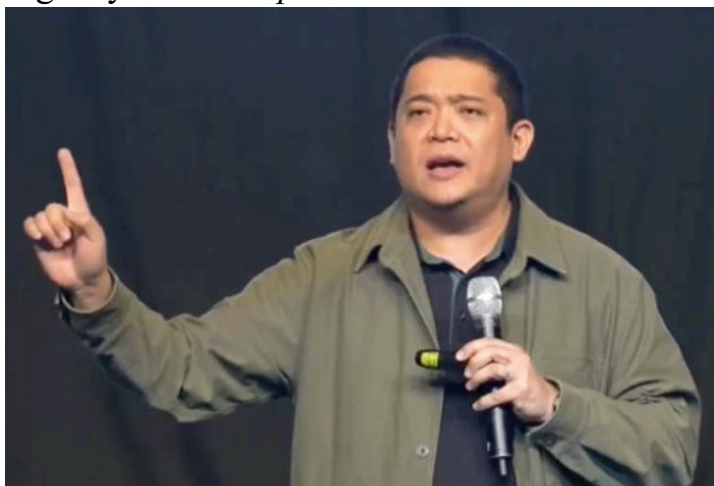
I'm sure that if we were in the shoes of Joseph, all that we would do is complain.

But Joseph didn't complain.

In the heat of the moment, he was enduring, fighting, coping, praying, and finding ways. He was *present*.

Life is hard but don't overthink.
Stay in the present.
Fight battles one day
at a time.

Joseph was able to cope, endure, and even outlast the challenges because of another Presence -- the Presence of God. God was present when he was in the pit, when he was in the house of Potiphar, and when he was in jail.



For God desires a fulfilled life for Joseph.

The Lord was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master.

Genesis 39:2 NLT

But the Lord was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love. And the Lord made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden.

Genesis 39: 21 NLT

Instead of the name of Joseph, put your name:

For God desires a fulfilled life for _____.



Among the Seven Last Words of Jesus on the Cross, my favorite is: "It is finished."

It signifies victory over sin and death.

But Jesus has a personal message for me through that last word.

Let me be vulnerable to you, Friends.

After the Coronavirus Disease (COVID) Pandemic, my wife and I decided to bring our son, Migs, to a developmental pediatrician. We were then told that Migs needed to undergo some therapies such as occupational therapy and speech therapy. They're expensive but for our son, we would do it.

In October 2023, my son was diagnosed with a social communication disorder.

In medical studies, this is something new. My son soon got a label. As a father, I was in denial. But I took the posture of humility because I was talking to an expert and maybe God was speaking to me through this person.

When we got home, I just embraced my son. I was in tears. I'm a life coach and labels for me are very important.

I said to my son, "I rebuke this label. This is only temporary. Daddy will do his best for you no matter how expensive the treatments are. Your Mom and I will be with you on this journey."

I am worried. My son is only four years old. I want him to have a fulfilled life. That's my prayer every day. In my prayers, I am crying, begging, and asking.

But God has spoken this to my heart: "I honor you for loving your son but don't forget, I love your son more. If you desire a beautiful life for your son, hey, I'm already there. I'm already working on it."

Now, my son has made a lot of progress. He is doing well.

Your burden is only temporary because the God that we worship desires a life with meaning for you, a beautiful life, a life of abundance, a fulfilled life for you.

You need to believe it. God already did something about it.

Look at the Cross. It will take you to your fulfilled life. It is finished.



It is finished!

**God wants you to live your life
to the fullest.**



MERCY MINISTRIES

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

--Matthew 5:7

ANAWIM HOME FOR ABANDONED ELDERLY

From Laundry to Ministry

By CONSUELO EMOCLING REYES



IT's such a great honor for me to be sharing my life story.

In the Anawim Home for Abandoned Elderly, I am employed as a laundry staff.

I collect and wash the clothes of the elderly and the linens they use. The tricky, challenging part of the job is making sure the clothes and linens are folded properly and returned to the lolo or lola to whom they belong.

An additional duty is washing the plates, utensils, glasses, and other items after meals for the elderly.

I feel so blessed I am doing all these for our elderly. And I am beyond grateful that I've found this job which is not *work*, but more like a ministry, a service for our lolos and lolas

with no family, no one to take care of them-- so that I've been called to be among their servants.

And to think I did not plan to be serving in Anawim.

Birthday Gift!

Let me tell you my story...

I was born on April 17, 1962, so I will be 62 this April 17, 2024. I guess this is God's birthday gift to me! I am so blessed!

But I am thinking this is my birthday giveaway to readers, especially those who I pray will be inspired by God's Grace for someone like me who didn't have much in life.

I mean, my family is of modest means... So, in the interview questionnaire asking for "Education," I simply put "Grade 3-- 1972." That's because I can't remember anymore the elementary school I went to, and I did not reach high school or college.

We lived on a farm near the Anawim Home in Montalban (now Rodriguez), Rizal. And we were *nakikiani*. That means the farm was owned by a well-off family. Enduring long hours under the heat of the sun, we helped in harvesting the palay (rice grain) the farm produce, and we received just a portion of the harvest.



In 1979, I met the love of my life at the farm, Domingo Yumul.

We're blessed with four children, now all adults, *from extreme left*: Bernie, 43; Maria Teresa, 39; Juan Paulo, 37; and Mary Grace, 34

In 1994, Domingo suffered pneumonia, and he passed away in the same year.

Hence, with my children, then barely in their teens, I struggled to make do with what we received as farmhands.

Divine Design

What I have much to say about is how God designed to turn my plight around for a better life for us.

I happened to have a friend, Lolita San Jose, who happened to live near the Anawim Home. There, early on, Bro. Bo Sanchez was living for some time, and he led a regular prayer meeting. And Lolita attended the meetings.



One day in 1996, Lolita invited me to attend the prayer meeting. And with my four children, I attended.

One month later, on the fourth time that we were attending the meeting, Bro. Bo (*left*) announced that Anawim needed an employee to help take care of the lolos and lolas.

And Anawim offered me the job!

Although I didn't know much about taking care of the elderly, I promptly accepted the offer.

Eventually, I got the hang of the service procedures. Today, my children and I live in Southville 8B, San Isidro, Rodriguez, Rizal--no longer under the punishing conditions we struggled through on the farm.

Over and above the material provision, we are ever grateful for the spiritual nourishment we've been blessed with. Because here, we have the Anawim Feast Light with builder Bro. Hermie Morelos, chairman of our Light



of Jesus Mercy Ministry (*left*, with ever-supportive wife, Sis. Reng) and co-builder Sis. Babes Zambrano (*right*) Anawim's Spiritual Ministry head.

Held every Wednesday, our Anawim Feast Light blesses us with amazing Worship, life-changing, inspiring talks, and fun fellowship with co-members making us feel so loved.

Yes, I have experienced profound blessings in my life. The sense of belonging to a supportive Community has brought me comfort and strength during challenging times.



What God Calls Me

As I write this, I realize that God has well designed a good life for me-- since way back in the day, beginning with my name. It is said that it is not an accident that you get the name you have. I mean, there's a reason for your name and you become what your name means. True.

With the help of *Anawim Herald* editors, I found out the origin and the meaning of my name.

Consuelo is of Latin or Spanish origin, meaning *consolation, comfort*. Indeed, God has well consoled me and provided the comfort my children and I now enjoy.

Consuelo also is short for the *Marian* name *Maria del Consuelo* or *Nuestra Señora del Consuelo*, or *Our Lady of the Consolation* (Dictionary of American Family Names 2nd edition, 2022).



Emocling, my middle name, represents *compassion, creativity, reliability, generosity, loyalty*. Now, those are what I've become as I serve my Anawim lolos and lolas.

Also, *emocling* is said to mean *love for domestic life*. Isn't that my life now as a laundry staff of Anawim?

Now, about my surname, *Reyes*. It is a Spanish name derived from the Latin *regis* meaning *kings*. In the Bible, the name *De los Reyes*, means *of the kings*, referring to the *Magi*, the three kings who visited the newly-born King of the World: Jesus Christ.

I love that my name is connected with Mama Mary and our Lord Jesus. For indeed, they have always been with me-- directing me to God's call for me to serve Him and His people most in need.

As I said, with my humble beginnings, I did not imagine or plan to transition from farmhand to laundry staff which is really now my Anawim Ministry. But now, what I say about that is what I learned in the Anawim Feast Light-- the Bible verse Luke 1:37 that now I live by:
For nothing will be impossible with God.

All Glory to God!



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.

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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

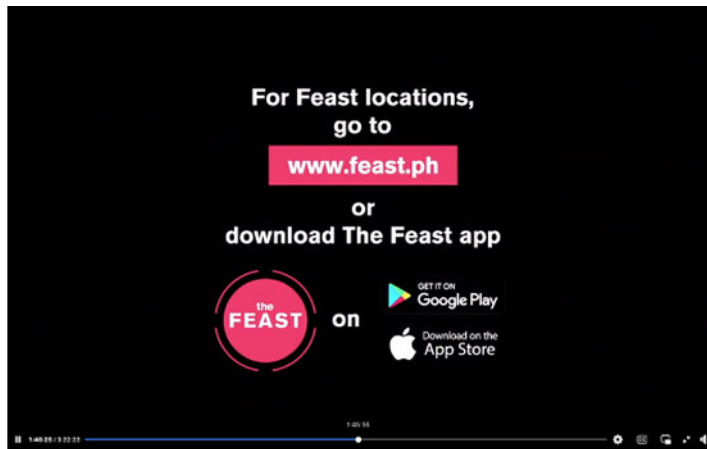
Human Resources Manager
Erika Ventura



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

