



FAMILY

AUGUST 18, 2024

Jesus Wants To Be Born in Your Marriage

WE started this series by saying that *Jesus was born into a family.*

But today, we'll be more specific and say that *Jesus was born into a marriage*—the marriage of Joseph and Mary.

If you're married, this Talk is for you.

If you're single or celibate, this Talk is for you.

Because your relationship with God is like a marriage. It's intimate. It's based on a sacred covenant that will last forever.

And if you're separated or from a broken family, this Talk is for you too. *God is writing a new story for your life.*

Today, you'll learn that every marriage needs miracles.

And God is here to supply them.

Have a powerful Feast today

May your dreams come true,

Bo Sanchez



WELCOME
to our ongoing
Talk series:
UNDER ONE ROOF
Living in Blessed
and Broken Families
Talk 3:
Beautiful
and Burdened Marriages

Let's Feast!

“IF we are the Body of Christ, if we take in this Food, this is Jesus, we become Him...”



Rev. Fr. Mario Giovann Tabone from Malta blessed our Feast last Sunday with this profound message. He said Holy Communion can become so familiar, we sometimes forget Jesus *is* the Bread of Life, the Feast of Feasts, *page 3*.



Yes, Jesus is our Life. He is close to us, so intimate, He wants to be in our marriage. That's the theme of Talk 3

of our Feast series, *Under One Roof*, as Bro. Bo Sanchez introduced on *page 1*. But this talk is not just for married couples. Stay, listen to this talk that's Feast for all.



Yes, we have big reason to Feast. Feast Bay Area Builder Bro. Audee Villaraza pointed that out in Talk 2 of *Under One Roof* last Sunday. He said we may think we're different from one another but this Talk changed that perspective. We learn from the example of his son Ethan and daughter Ellie, *page 18*.



Sis. Tisha Caro shares a life-changing experience as early as she was 14 when she attended our Youth Ministry's Camp Calye. Since then, she has continued to Feast, *page 9*.

We Feast in this issue because we have a new section: *The Feast Special*. And for ladies, Sis. Marowe Sanchez invited you to the Jewels Conference this August to Feast with *Pure Joy*, *page 34*.



Also in *The Feast Special*, we Feast with our special, special Birthday Boy, Bro. Audee Villaraza as Bro. Bo leads our tribute and prayer for him, *page 35*.

Bountiful Birthday Blessings,
Beloved Bro. Audee!
Yes, guys, let's Feast!



All for God's Glory,

Randy Borromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director





FLASHBACK!

AUGUST 11, 2024

Holy Mass



NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Homily

REV. FR. GIOVANN TABONE (Malta)
on the Gospel John 6:41-51

Concelebrants:

REV. FR. MARK DEMANUELE
REV. FR. BOB McCONAGHY

Excerpts:

OUR Gospel today is a powerful and beautiful one. I really feel privileged to share it with you.

For those of us who don't have kids, we find it amusing to see parents with their babies during feeding time. The scene can be dramatic. Sometimes, the babies would be extremely hungry but there are also times when they don't want to eat. You give them good food, but they do not open their mouths. Normally, the mother would lure her baby with a teaspoon of food just so her baby would open his mouth. We thought that we only saw that kind of drama with babies.

But not really. It also happens to grown-ups like us.

The FEAST FAMILY August 18, 2024 **3**



Wake Up. Come and Eat

In our Gospel today, the Lord offers to feed the hungry. But somehow, they were not accepting of the providence and the life that He offers.

In our First Reading, the prophet Elijah was successful for he was able to do God's will. He was doing miracles. He was driving out things that were against God. There was a time in his life when he was extremely fruitful, but he got burned out.

Elijah said, "I would like to go for a rest and sleep. I hope that I will not wake up. I'm tired of these. Please take my life."

That's our story. There are moments when we feel like Elijah. Perhaps you're going through a tough time. Right now, you may feel tired as a parent, as a servant, or even as a Christian.

You keep on giving up to the point that you say, "I'm fed up. That's enough. I would like to go and rest."

Let's go back to Elijah's story. While he was sleeping, an angel woke him up. The angel told Elijah, "Wake up. Come and eat. Wake up."

Right now, the Lord may be asking you to wake up. Somehow, you chose to remain asleep. But the Lord wakes you up by sending you angels--the Lord sends you experiences and opportunities in life.

Earlier this morning, the Lord woke you up to be here, to be alive, to be full of spirit. Instead of sulking, instead of staying in your own world of seeing yourself perhaps as doing something good, but not good enough, something good, but perhaps it's your own ego, not the way of the Lord. And the prophet had to hear that. And I believe it's also our call today to hear that.



First Reading: 1 Kings 19:4-8

4 Elijah went a day's journey into the desert, until he came to a broom tree and sat beneath it. He prayed for death, saying: "This is enough, O Lord! Take my life, for I am no better than my fathers." *5* He lay down and fell asleep under the broom tree, but then an angel touched him and ordered him to get up and eat. *6* Elijah looked and there at his head was a hearth cake and a jug of water. After he ate and drank, he lay down again, *7* but the angel of the Lord came back a second time, touched him, and ordered, "Get up and eat, else the journey will be too long for you!" *8* He got up, ate and drank; then strengthened by that food, he walked forty days and forty nights to the mountain of God, Horeb.

Jesus, The Bread of Life

In the Gospel of today, we have a very similar story. Just a bit of context at the moment, we're reading the Gospel of John-- John 6. One of the most important chapters in the Gospel speaks about Jesus being the Bread of Life.

If we fast forward to The Last Supper, we won't see the institution of the Eucharist there. We have something more important, perhaps, the Washing of the Feet -- the other side of being a Christian, the other side of the Eucharist.

The Eucharist is going out to wash the feet of your brothers and sisters. But then we have this chapter, John 6, which is very difficult. It starts with Jesus doing the miracle of the multiplication of the bread and fish. And then there are the story after story, or rather a homily after homily, explaining what that miracle is.

And today we have the Gospel that starts with people who were amazed, shocked, and scandalized when they heard Jesus saying that He *is* the Bread of Life-- He is the Bread coming down from Heaven.

The people told Jesus, "No. You are just a normal human being. No. You are someone that we know. You are familiar to us."

And because of this prejudice, because of too much familiarity, they said, "No. We don't accept you."

This can happen to us as well. For all of us here, the Christian Life, the Eucharist, and the way that we are called to live can become too close, that it feels we must keep the power, the energy, that it should have. And we fail to live it.

Jesus tells us: "I am the Bread of Life. I would like to wake you up so that you can receive Me.

Like the prophet who was tired, these people failed to take the Bread.

And it can happen to us. It can happen to me. I'm not just preaching this. I'm saying it because also, as a priest, when I celebrate one Eucharist after another, after another, it becomes for me, normal. It becomes something I do as my work-- without realizing that this is not *work*-- this is *Life*.

Jesus comes to us as *Bread*. Let's make this closer to you, Filipinos. He comes to you as *Rice*. Right? He comes to you as food-- it's mundane, something that your stomach tells you that you need to eat. Perhaps, at the moment you're hungry, and you say, "I need to eat." And when you think that you're hungry, the Lord comes to your mind or your heart.



Jesus' Way of Life

Jesus tells you, "I am this Bread. I am this Rice. I am this Food. I am very close, not close to taking you for granted but close to being intimate with you-- to be *Life* for you."

Jesus today repeats all the time, "I am the *Bread* that gives you *Life*."

For some of us here, we have no problem with food. We have no problem with physical food.

But let's admit it, we all have a problem with *Life*. We all sometimes struggle with *Life* with no proper meaning. We struggle with *Life* without having a life. Sometimes, we exist without *Life*.

The Lord comes every time you listen to this voice of the angel who tells you, "Wake up. You need to eat."

And He comes to give you Himself.

One of the first saints and one of the Church fathers, St. Irenaeus, had this beautiful reflection about Christ. The first time I read it, I was so struck.

He said, "*Jesus is not just the Bread of Life in the Eucharist. He wanted to become Bread even by His way of Life-- His lifestyle.*"



Second Reading: Ephesians 4:30–5:2

30 Brothers and sisters: Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, along with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ. 5:1 So be imitators of God, as beloved children, 2 and live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us as a sacrificial offering to God for a fragrant aroma.

We Are the Body of Christ

Jesus was born in Bethlehem. You know what *Bethlehem* means? It means *House of Bread*.

Let's focus a bit more on where in our Scripture tradition the Lord was born. Where? In a *manger*. You know what is a *manger*? It is where they put the food that animals eat.

The Lord comes to us as Someone so close-- that this point somehow already becomes trivia, unfortunately.

But Jesus comes so close to tell you if you're struggling at the moment, if you're lacking life, if you're burned out, if you're feeling tired, if you're being prejudiced against anything in life, if you're feeling so messed up, He is the *Food* to give you *Life*.

He is attractive-- sometimes, not even because we're hungry. He is attractive when we just love to eat. Filipinos, like us, Maltese, every time they have a celebration, there is what? Food.

And that's what makes Christian Life attractive. That's what the Lord is.

When we see the Lord, when we are in our Christian circles, it's as if the Lord, the Christian Life, is unattractive-- we're not living it well. We're having food that is not food. The Lord comes to give you real food-- this Food that is Life and this Food that is attractive.

Last Point: Saint Augustine, when he celebrated Mass, during Communion time, instead of saying, "This is the Bread of Life," he used to tell his brothers and sisters, "Receive what you already are."

So powerful. This means that we are already the Body of Christ. The fact that we are here today, we are the Body of Christ.

And if we are the Body of Christ, if we take in this Food, this is Jesus, we become Him. If you eat the Eucharist every Sunday, what are you becoming? You're becoming Jesus. You're becoming this Life that He promised to each one of you. You're becoming this Christ for others.

The last call for us-- in this Reading-- is that it's not just about me, being all the time starving for Food, but it's me being that angel to share that Food with others.

We-- each one of us here--are also called to become this Bread, to become this Life, to become this person to wake up the other person and tell him: "If you're hungry, you need Food, you need Life-- therefore, you need Jesus."





At The Feast, feast with Others

If your Christian life is about you being comfortable here in the air-conditioned venue or just about coming to The Feast without feasting with others, without giving Life to others, I'm sorry to tell you that the Lord will not give you any more food.

I'm not challenging you. I'm inviting you to share this Food with others. If there are people outside who are hungry physically, emotionally, and spiritually, it means we have a lot and we're not sharing what we have with others. The Lord gives us the responsibility to receive this Food and share it with others.

Bishop Robert Baron (American prelate of the Catholic Church, Bishop of the Diocese of Winona, Rochester) once asked a group of university students, "What is your understanding of evangelization?"

One student answered, "*Evangelization is like being one hungry beggar and telling the others where the food is.*"

If you would like to be an evangelizer, or an angel of the Lord, if you'd like to be a Christian, and the Christian way that the Lord asks us to be, be this one hungry beggar telling others where is the Food.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

R: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

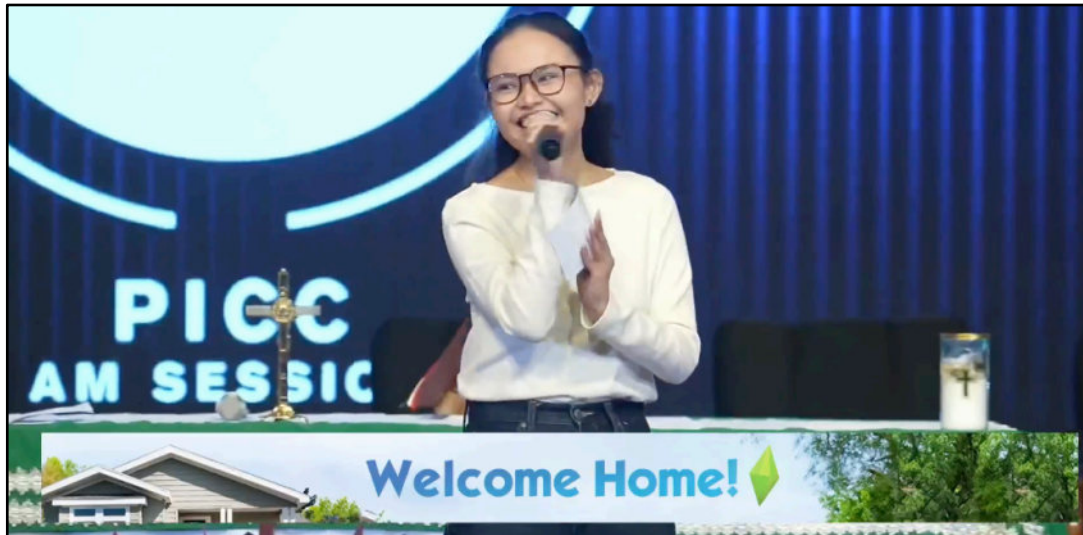
2 I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall be ever in my mouth. 3 Let my soul glory in the Lord; the lowly will hear me and be glad. (R)

4 Glorify the Lord with me, let us together extol his name.

5 I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. (R)



Welcome!



SIS. TISHA CARO:

Let's lift our praises to Jesus! We're grateful to be here! Thank You, Jesus! Isn't it a gift that we get to do this every Sunday?

Welcome to The Feast, Everybody. My name is Tisha. I am one of the Youth leaders here at The Feast.

May I see a raise of hands of our first-timers? Welcome! Thank you for being here. We love that we get this Sunday morning with you. After our session, please stay for a while. We want to connect with you and get to know you more.

We in the Youth Ministry often say if you want to belong, you already do. You don't have to wait for your tenth time to be here. You don't have to wait until you know 50 people in this room. Whether you live near or far, this is a place where you belong.

Tell the person next to you, "You belong."

I just have a few announcements about our ministries. If you want to share God's love, here are our Mercy Ministries.>

FEAST Help the Feast Mercy Ministries. Help them all.

- Asselin Lay Missions Foundation, Inc.
- Grace to be Born Maternity Home and Nursery
- He Cares Foundation Street Children Caring Center
- Jeremiah 33:6-7 Foundation
- Papang ng Pambayo Scholarship Foundation
- LOJ Prison Ministry
- LOJ Pastoral Care Center
- HAIL Mary of Abra
- Jesus Christ Cares for Cancer
- Stephanie'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!

Where You Belong

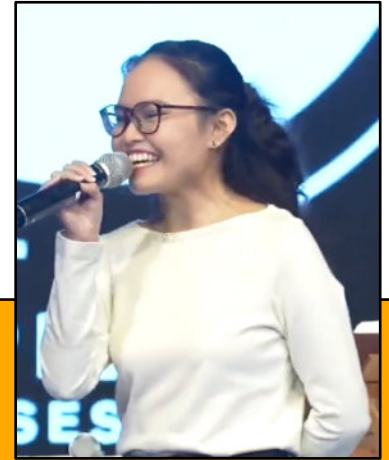
So, may I hear the young people in this room? Awesome. By young people, I mean high school and college students.

We want to invite you to Youth Ministry's Camp Calye.

My first camp was ten years ago. I was 14 years old. I did not know anybody in the group. I was very shy. A Friday night for me looked like staying at home and reading a book.

So, going to camp for a weekend, without knowing anybody in the room, was a little scary. If there's a young person here thinking of going to camp and you don't know anybody, it's okay. You're in a good place. When I was there, I had a team and for some reason, I just left camp feeling like, "This is a place where I think I can belong."

Ten years later, I'm still here. I'm still serving. Loving the young people because I want them to experience the same kind of love that I experienced.



**CAMP
CALYE**
BAY AREA

Drop by the Youth Table in
PICC for more details!

BATCH #2
August 23-25, 2024

Golden Arable Farm,
Maragondon, Cavite

PHP 4,000 Camp Fee
exclusive of transpo fee



Love Offering

Youth Home is always free because of the people who already gave.

If you feel like The Feast is home for you. If you feel like The Feast is a place where you can belong, we want to pass it on to the next generation and we believe our giving can help us do that. If you want The Feast to be passed on to the next generation, and the next generation, let's give today.

If you're ready let's lift our Love Offering and let's pray:

Thank You, Jesus. Thank You for blessing us. Thank You that we are getting to be a part of this. That we get to call The Feast our home. That this is a place where we belong. Thank You for the abundance that we experience here. We want that abundance to give today.

We pray that you would use this Offering, no matter how big or small, to bless the world, fill the Earth with Your love and abundance. We want to see Your Kingdom come and we want to take part in that today.

And this we pray, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

So, with love and anticipation for what God can do for all generations, let's give today.



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
- VISA** Debit and credit card giving WWW.THEFEASTPICCAM.COM/COMMIT
- GCash** **QR Ph**
- maya** **Pay** **Metrobank**
- BPI** **GrabPay** AND MORE

Worship!

EXHORTATIONS

BRO. JHONN JAVIER:

We all know that it is written, that we are wonderfully and fearfully made by God. It is a reminder that we are created as one.

And so, I invite everyone here, and online, that we are going to sing to the King of Craftmanship. To our Lord of Lords, to our Creator. So, come, give Him praise today!

Hallelujah! We sing praise to Jesus!



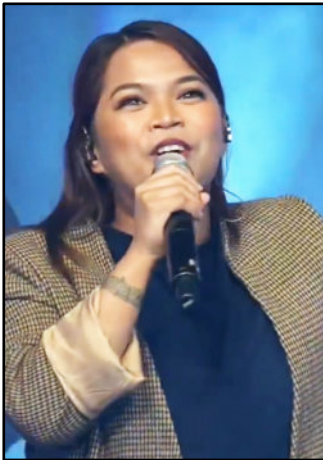
SIS. MHADZ PAMAONG

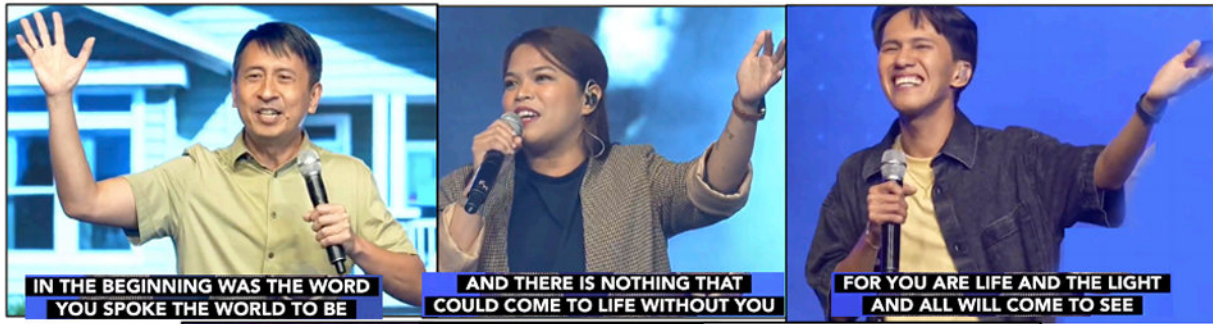
Hallelujah! Praise the Lord for He is good! Let us magnify His Name together.

For You alone, Lord, are holy. You alone, Lord, are worthy. You alone, Lord, deserve all the glory. And we submit to You our lives, our families, and this church. And we bow to Your Holy Presence, and we adore Your Holy Name.

Brothers and Sisters, work in the same Worship one more time -- as one family.

May this be a sweet, sweet Offering to You, Jesus.





BRO. BO SANCHEZ:

Worship can be a place of entertainment, of good feelings.

But I want you to be bold today, to be brave today, not to make this an entertainment room but to ask God to make Worship your operating room-- where Worship becomes your operating table, where you lay bare before God and open up your life to Him.

And you don't make Worship something that's pleasurable only-- but even painful. Because you allow the Great Physician to get His scalpel and strip away anything in you that prevents you from going closer to Him. To cut away what pulls you down-- pride, greed, lust, selfishness, where you make yourself your god. You take that away.

When you worship, you declare that He is your God. And you follow Him and you worship Him because He deserves it. And that you will obey Him every day of your life.

Father, we lay bare our hearts to You today, to Your things. Do what You do best. Do Your stuff in me. Create a new heart. I love You! I want to love You more.


Jesus, come, come!




NOVENA TO GOD'S LOVE DECLARATION OF ABUNDANCE


BRO. BO SANCHEZ:



 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 THAT
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.

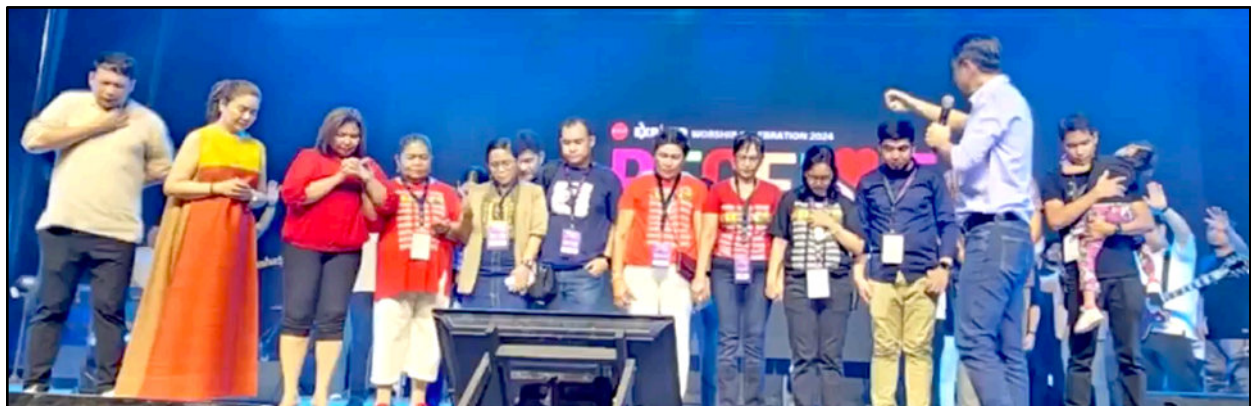
Talk INTRODUCTION



BRO. BO SANCHEZ:

Tell that person beside you, “God is doing something new. God is doing something beautiful.”

I just flew in from Butuan this morning. We had a huge Feast there yesterday. We have three Feasts in one city in Butuan. Here are some photos of our visit:





John Levy's Life

The guy who leads one of the Feasts in Butuan, his name is John Levy.

His life is amazing. He was swallowed up by drugs-- and he ended up in prison. But God touched him and changed him. Today, he's leading The Feast in Butuan.



If God can work with someone who was in prison, and society has condemned... if God can work with a man where people around him already said he's a basket case,



he's hopeless, he can never change... if God can work with that person and make him today lead a Feast that is changing people's lives and blessing generations... so many young people go to that Feast in Butuan... now there are three Feasts there... if God can use someone like John Levy, I'm announcing to you there is no such thing as a basket case in God's Kingdom.

There is no one hopeless in God's Kingdom.

Last week, I was not here because I was in Baguio where we had a big Feast. God is moving. We are in hundreds of cities all over the world. We are in 30 countries. God is moving, God is touching

My friends, God can do all things. God is a God of Possibilities. You are in the Presence of a God who can do amazing things in your life.

Please know that whatever situation you are in, God is there. He can save you. He can lift you. He can bring light in the darkness. He can give hope to despair. He can just bless you.

Are you excited that we follow a God who does not know what impossible means?

John Levy was there. He was in the pit. He said, "Lord God, rescue me."

And God did. The God of John Levy is your God. He's going to do amazing things in your life if you say *Yes!*

Audee Villaraza, give us the Word..



BRO. AUDIE VILLARAZA:

Everybody, join me and sing:

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

We're taking a page from the *Book of Genesis*.
Most of you have probably heard this passage--
it's pretty famous. From Genesis 1: 27:



GENESIS 1:27 NABRE

**"GOD CREATED MANKIND IN HIS IMAGE; IN THE IMAGE OF GOD HE
CREATED THEM; MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM."**

Three lessons we can learn from this passage:

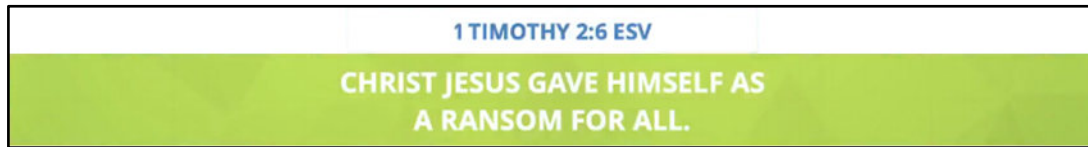
1. There is a Creator;
2. There is a creation. We are His creation; and
3. He is creative

Quick sharing. Whenever I get together with my old college buddy-- his name is Noel-- we always somehow get into a heated friendly debate because we're so different from one another. He likes the Cleveland Cavaliers and I like the Golden State Warriors. He loves the car brand, Toyota. I love the car brand, Honda and Ford. He likes the cool weather, and I like it when it's warm. I'm very sensitive to the cold weather. He thinks that he's more good-looking than I am and I think that he's delusional. So, you know we've got differences.

I believe that we need to be okay with differences. Why? Because if there's one Person who knew that and who showed us that it's okay to be different from the person standing next to you, it is Jesus.

Jesus Loves Everybody

1 Timothy 2:6 says:



Christ gave Himself as a ransom for all. Not just for you, not just for me, but for all.

That's the way that Jesus lived His life. He dined with sinners. He befriended prostitutes. He dined with the tax collectors. He even loved His enemy.

To every Christ follower, this is the challenge: Whenever you see people who are different from you, the challenge is for you to accept and not to alienate. It's a challenge for you to respect and not to reject.

That's why here at The Feast, we believe that everybody who comes in through these doors, they're welcome. If you're a sinner, come on in. You're welcome in this place. You got some problems with money, come on in. You're welcome in this place. You're struggling with some sins, come on in. Our doors are wide open because this place is God's place and God loves all.

I'm excited to preach this message to everybody here. Can we all put our hands over our chest and say this with me:

Dear Lord. I'm right here and I'm completely open. Whatever word or message that you have for me, I pray that it lands on fertile ground. Speak. Your servant is listening. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

One more time,
Everybody, lift those
hands and sing:

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



The FEAST FAMILY August 18, 2024 19



Here's the message I want to preach to everyone:

God made us different. God made us one.

It's a very deep message. We are in our series called *Under One Roof*. We're talking about the value of family.

How many of you believe that your family is your real wealth? It's your real treasure. You can be the richest person materially and financially but if you've got a poor family life, you can also feel like you're the poorest person in the world. But how many of you also believe that even if your family is your wealth, you also go through conflicts in your family? Some of you might even be going through conflicts right now in your family. That's the truth. We all go through conflicts--whether big or small.

Even among Filipinos, sometimes families can be terrific but also sometimes they can be toxic. Do you know one toxic family culture here in the Philippines?

I'll tell you:

Toxic Family Culture:
Alam na diet ka isasangag
pa yung kanin sa pinag
prituhan ng tocino.

They already know that you're on a diet, but they still fry the already-stir-fried garlic rice in the oil used to fry tocino (bacon made from pork belly).



But why do we go through conflicts?

I think that's a good question. Here's a little theory: The reason we go through conflicts is families have expectations and when these expectations are not met, sometimes conflicts arise.

Parents, agree or disagree with me: You have expectations for your children. Parents expect their children to study hard, get good grades, get a good job, and one day in God's time, get married and have children.

But here's the truth: sometimes those expectations are not met. Instead of getting good grades, your child gets bad report cards. How many of you are like me who gets colorful report cards-- bleeding red? How many of you instead of going into a professional career such as Law, Architecture, or being a pilot, you go into business? Some expect their children to take Architecture, Law, or Medicine but instead, they become vloggers. That's the modern career now, right? Sometimes, they earn more than you. That's the truth.

Parents have expectations of their children that one day, they would have their own family and have their own kids. But some of them, for some reason, don't want to get married. They want to be celibate for life and they're happy.

Parents have expectations that they will have grandkids, but they don't-- and that's when the famous "*apostolate*" happens. Do you know what *apostolate* means? It's when the grandparents run after their grandchildren wherever they go.

That's why some grandparents would spend six months abroad to take care of their grandchildren-- and it's great.

I believe that we are a close-knit family. That's our culture. But there is an advantage to that-- and a disadvantage too.

What is the advantage? We're never alone.

What is the disadvantage? We're never alone.

Our family goes with us wherever we go.

Toxic Culture

Sometimes, the families are so strong-willed and aggressive that everybody has an opinion about your life. Daddy and Mommy have an opinion about your career. Lolo and Lola have an opinion about your relationship. Tito and Tita have an opinion about your health.

For example, health issues. They will tell you, "You're getting fat. You drink too much milk tea!"

They have opinions about your relationship: "How come you don't have a boyfriend yet?"

You get a boyfriend, and they are like, "Until now you don't know how to choose the right boyfriend."

When it comes to your job, they will tell you: "Don't take that course. There's no money in that course. Take nursing. Take tourism. There's money there."

Sometimes even with fashion: "Stop wearing the color brown. You look like a tree trunk."

Everybody has an opinion about you.

There's a toxic culture among Filipinos and I don't know if this happens in other countries: Parents somehow expect their eldest child, if they've graduated already from school, to put up the rest of the siblings through school.

You feel like you're treated like an ATM (Automatic Teller Machine). They even ask for money from you so they can give a birthday gift to your neighbor.

An even more toxic trait is sometimes when parents get old and they retire, some of them expect their children to also take care of them. There's nothing wrong with that-- except that when the parents become too toxic that's when the conflicts arise. So, the children don't have a choice. They build a Great Wall of China between them and their parents--because it's too toxic to be with them.

But let's face it. Let me repeat that conflicts are normal. I mean imagine putting under one roof people with different ideas, different belief systems, different customs, different proclivities, different preferences.

Of course, there will be conflicts.

But here's the thing: I believe that we need to see conflicts from a different perspective. I believe that if you don't go through conflicts in your life, you will grow up to have a very soft life. It's the people who go through conflicts in their relationship that have a deeper, stronger, and tougher perspective about their relationship.



**WE NEED CONFLICTS TO MAKE OUR LOVE
GROW DEEPER, TOUGHER, AND STRONGER.**

Let me teach you four lessons that we can derive from Genesis 1:27: *God created mankind in His image: in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.*

Here is the first lesson:



1

OUR DIFFERENCES ARE EMBEDDED INTO OUR IDENTITY.

God created us differently. Imagine for a moment that

God created male and female but He gave only one face and one look to every male and female that He ever created.

Imagine the person at your left looks like you and the person at your right looks like you. Wouldn't that be boring? We would all look like those "oompa loompa" from that Hollywood movie. They all looked alike. They were all the same height. That's so boring.

But thank God that He is creative. We all have different ideas and different personalities.

My son's best friends in school are triplets. Their names are Faith, Hope, and Love. Whenever I see them, I cannot tell them apart, no matter how many times I've seen them. For some reason, my son could easily tell them apart. How? Through each one's personality. They act differently. Their mannerisms are different.

I thank God that He made all of us to be different and that's the lesson there: that God created you and designed you to be different from the person sitting next to you.



GOD WANTS US TO BE DIFFERENT FROM EACH OTHER.



There's a lot of debate going around. I think it's still happening today that people are saying, "God's image is male. God is a man." But some people are saying, "God's image is female." But if we look at the Biblical text, it's clear that God created them in His image and likeness.

GENESIS 1:27 NABRE
"GOD CREATED MANKIND IN HIS IMAGE; IN THE IMAGE OF GOD HE CREATED THEM; MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM."

God's image is not only reflected by seeing male only or female only but it's male and female together. Here's where it gets interesting. The next verse says:

GENESIS 1:28 NLT
THEN GOD BLESSED THEM AND SAID,
"BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY. FILL THE EARTH AND GOVERN IT."

It seems to me that when a man and a woman get together, there is a blessing from the Lord.

"But Brother Audee, what about me? I'm single. I'm choosing to be single for life. God has called me for single blessedness. Does it mean I don't reflect God's image?"

Not true. How do you reflect God's image? When you serve side by side with other people. When you worship the Lord together... the Bible says that Jesus sent His disciples two by two. That's the way it was made to be-- so that they can reflect God's image together.



How many of you believe that miracles happen at The Feast? Amen. The greatest miracle that happens here in our Community-- and you probably don't even notice it-- whenever I look at everybody here, you can come from different races, different backgrounds, and different upbringings-- but for me, the greatest miracle that happens here every Sunday is the fact that you're able to sit down for two hours with a random person sitting next to you.



You can sit in harmony and peace.

Take this: Where in the world will you ever see a Leni supporter, a Duterte follower, and a Marcos loyalist serve side by side every week?

There is a miracle that happens here at The Feast. We believe that we're more than just our political affiliations. We believe that we're more than just our political views. We are brothers and sisters in Christ and we come together under the banner of Lord Jesus.

There is a blessing in unity, my friend. The *Book of Psalms* says that when there is unity, there is life forever more. I believe that when we unite ourselves with Jesus as our Lord, there will be a blessing for all of us.



People would say that the reason there was conflict in the Creation story was that Adam and Eve bit the forbidden fruit.

But honestly, here is the message: Catastrophes didn't happen because they bit the forbidden fruit-- but because of the way they responded after they bit the forbidden fruit.

Catastrophes don't happen because they're caused by conflicts. Catastrophes happen because we don't know how to resolve and respond when conflict arises.

If you look at the text, there were two mistakes that Adam and Eve made when they bit the forbidden fruit.

First response was **hiding**.

GENESIS 3:10 NLT

"I HEARD YOU WALKING IN THE GARDEN,
SO I HID. I WAS AFRAID BECAUSE I WAS NAKED."

And the second was **blaming**.

GENESIS 3:12 NLT

THE MAN REPLIED, "IT WAS THE WOMAN YOU GAVE ME
WHO GAVE ME THE FRUIT AND I ATE IT."

A lot of you need to understand that if you want to be able to resolve the conflicts in your relationships or your family:

1. Don't hide from God. Don't take matters into your own hands. When you've got a conflict, go to God for help. He wants to help you. He's there to help you.

2. Stop blaming others. Take accountability. If you fault another person, ask for forgiveness for that thing that you did. The problem with Adam and Eve was that they started pointing. Adam pointed to Eve. Eve pointed to the serpent. The serpent could not point to anybody because it didn't have fingers.

Stop blaming others.

I'm standing here before you today and I cannot tell you that conflicts will not happen in your family. But I think that I can teach you--as your shepherd and as your pastor-- how to resolve conflicts when they happen.

Just four steps...



1 LISTEN BEFORE YOU SPEAK

If you go through the Gospels written by the saints, Jesus always had this funny thing of asking questions that we all know Jesus knew the answers to.

Did you ever notice that? If you look at the entire Gospels, you'll note Jesus asked questions 307 times. That's a lot of questions for somebody who holds all the wisdom in the world, right? But why was Jesus asking questions?

Simple: Because He loved to listen. He loved to hear the opinions and the inputs of His disciples He loved. He loved listening to His friends and the people that He loved.

One of the marks of a maturing Christian is this: When you focus more on listening rather than talking.

SPIRITUAL MATURITY IS WHEN YOU SHIFT FROM TALKING TO LISTENING

When you're more comfortable that you're the one listening instead of the one just yapping and gabbing-- that's when you know that you're becoming a true Jesus to somebody in your life.

As a family member, you need to be able to listen before you speak or give your opinion.

St. James said: "Be slow to speak. Be quick to listen."

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2

CELEBRATE EACH OTHER'S DIFFERENCES

One time, I asked my wife if she had a favorite between our two kids – Ethan and Ellie. I was afraid for a moment that she would say, "Yeah. I have a favorite child. It's you."

Thankfully, she didn't say that. She said, "I love our children equally."

It's Biblical to love your children equally. That's what God does in the *Book of Matthew*:



MATTHEW 5:45 NLT

"IN THAT WAY, YOU WILL BE ACTING AS TRUE CHILDREN OF YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN. FOR HE GIVES SUNLIGHT TO BOTH THE EVIL AND THE GOOD, AND HE SENDS RAIN ON THE JUST AND UNJUST ALIKE."

Love your children equally. If you're a parent, don't have favorites.

To children whose parents are still alive, love your parents equally as well. Don't have favorites with your parents. Celebrate their differences.

My son and my daughter have many differences, not just physically.

They've got different strengths and different skills-- and we treat them equally because that's what God calls us to do.

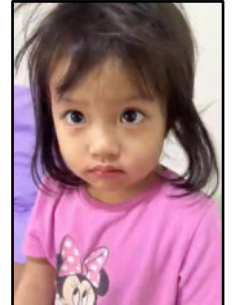


3

HONOR EACH OTHER'S BOUNDARIES



Every person has a boundary.
Our daughter Ellie is gifted in many ways. But I'll share with you why I had to share this picture.>
By the age of 10 months, she was already speaking words. By the age of 12 months, she was already talking in sentences. By the age of 18 months, she could already read. Now, she's three years old and she's reading books by herself, self-taught.



She's gifted and she reminds me of somebody I know. *Me*.

One time, I saw a scratch on a glass in our home. I asked my wife who did that.

She replied, "Ewan ko sa mga anak mo! I don't know who of your children."

When the child does something bad, it's "Anak *mo*. *Your* child."

When the child is good and brilliant, it's "Anak *ko*. *My* child."

Our daughter is now in Nursery 1. She started last week. It's been terrible--because she has this withdrawal anxiety from her parents. We brought her to school, and she started screaming.

This is how brilliant she is in thinking. Last Wednesday, she was negotiating with us and she started crying. You know, children manipulate their way of not doing what you want them to do by crying.

She started crying in the morning and she said, "I don't want to go to school."

But as a father and as the head of the house, I said, "No. You're going to school. We have to keep the momentum of you doing the habit of going to school."

Let me show this picture of her as I was driving her to school. >

She looked like this when she started telling me, "Dad, I'm tired. Dad, I'm sleepy. Dad, I'm hungry. Dad, my eye is red. Dad, I don't want to go to school."

She kept on negotiating with me until we arrived at school. When I opened the car door, her countenance changed. She started smiling.

To me, that was a lesson already. That was a message that she had already accepted defeat.

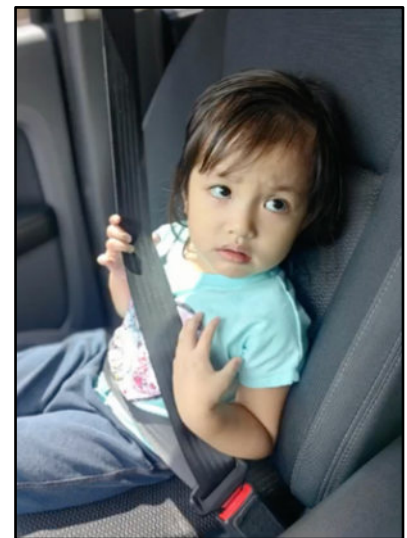
She was already surrendering: "I'm in school."

And that she had no choice.

My point is simple: You need to set boundaries. As parents, you need to recognize the boundaries. I cannot let my three-year-old decide when she wants to go to school or when she will not go to school.

There are boundaries in life. You cannot allow your children-- if they're not of age yet-- to decide what they're going to eat. Otherwise, they're going to start eating just hotdogs the whole day and the whole week.

When they get older, there are boundaries also that you cannot cross. When they have matured, you shift hats. You're no longer a parent. You're now a coach and you're watching from among the cheering squad. You're supporting them. You respect each other's boundaries.





Here's the last step: **You are on the same team.**

The family is one team-- but sometimes we forget that. Again, parents, don't ever try to win the affection of your child at the expense of the other parent.

PARENTS SHOULD NOT WIN THE AFFECTION OF THEIR CHILD AT THE EXPENSE OF THE OTHER PARENT.

What do I mean by that?

When your child comes up to you, and she's like, "Mommy, Daddy will not allow me to use the iPad. He won't allow me to play Roblox. He won't allow me to watch TV."

Then, Mommy is like, "Okay, wait for 15 minutes because Daddy's going to be sleeping. Wait for 15 minutes. Daddy is going to work soon."

Don't say that-- not even in jest. Don't let them see that the other parent is the bad guy-- because you're on the same team.

Are there teachers here? Here's my advice to you also: You're on the same team.

Teachers, don't ever say to the child, "Is that what you're taught at home?"

Parents, don't ever say to your kid, "Is that what they teach you in school?"

Collaborate! Both of you have influence over the child. You're on the same team. It's our responsibility to raise our children. The family is one team. You're not at war with one another. You might be in conflict sometimes but you're on the same team.

God is also with us on that same team.

God's Temple

As I close this, let me read one Gospel story from the New Testament.

MATTHEW 21:12-13 NLT

JESUS ENTERED THE TEMPLE AND BEGAN TO DRIVE OUT ALL THE PEOPLE BUYING AND SELLING ANIMALS FOR SACRIFICE.

HE KNOCKED OVER THE TABLES OF THE MONEY CHANGERS AND THE CHAIRS OF THOSE SELLING DOVES.



I love this story of how Jesus turned the tables, and He cleared the Temple.

I believe that Jesus is still doing that today. He's still clearing temples and He's still turning over the tables.

Here's my point: The reason I needed to tell you that story is simple.

It's because, you know, Jesus says in His own words: "You have turned the temple into something that it was not designed for."

The Scripture says: "*My* Temple."

Did you know that you are a Temple of the Holy Spirit? If you follow that perspective, you are also God's Temple.

**YOU ARE GOD'S TEMPLE.
YOU ARE SET APART FOR GOD.**

I believe that we sometimes go through conflicts in life-- why we behave badly and aren't able to respond well-- because we've used this Temple of God for our selfish ways.

We've turned the family into something that it's not. That's why, sometimes there's bitterness, anger, and resentment.

But I believe that today, Jesus is clearing the Temple and He's setting it back to its original design.

He says: "This is *My* Temple. This is *My* Family."

Your family is supposed to be God's territory.

YOUR FAMILY IS GOD'S TERRITORY.

**GOD MADE US DIFFERENT.
GOD MADE US ONE.**

My friends, God is the Head of your household. And I want you to think that when God created you, He created you to be unique. He created you to be different-- but different in a way that you're also set apart. You're set apart for God you were created for a design and that design God is going to use for His glory and for His good.



God made us different, but God also made us one. If there's something that has taken hold of your family right now-- that the Lord has not intended it to be-- I pray and I rebuke that in Jesus' Name.

Everybody, lift your hands and pray:



God, if there's anything that has taken hold of our family, we rebuke that in Your Name. We rebuke the spirit of anger in our families. In Jesus' Name.

We rebuke the spirit of greed in our families. In Jesus' Name.

We rebuke the spirit of indifference. In Jesus' Name.

We rebuke the spirit of complacency. In Jesus' Name.

We rebuke the spirit of addiction. In Jesus' Name.

Father, we profess, and we proclaim that Your Spirit of Love is flowing in our families right now. We profess Your Spirit of Joy, Hope, Peace, Clarity, and Life. Clear the tables of what does not belong to You. Clear our Temple if there is anything that does not belong to You that we put there on the throne of our life. Lord, turn that over. Turn it around. We want You in that space. Remold us today. Remake our families and turn us into one. We may be different, but we're set apart for You. Thank You, Jesus. We love You and we worship You. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

SURRENDER

Father, our prayer today is that You would mark our families with Your Presence. That we would be a place, a Family where You would delight to dwell in day by day. But we cannot be a family if we are not open.

So, today, Father, we are opening our life to You. To have that mark-- that mark of Love that only You can give. That we would bear fruit-- the fruit of Love. And that there would be peace reigning in all our families. And understanding, ruling our household. Oh God, make us Your Family. Our family is Your territory, Oh God.

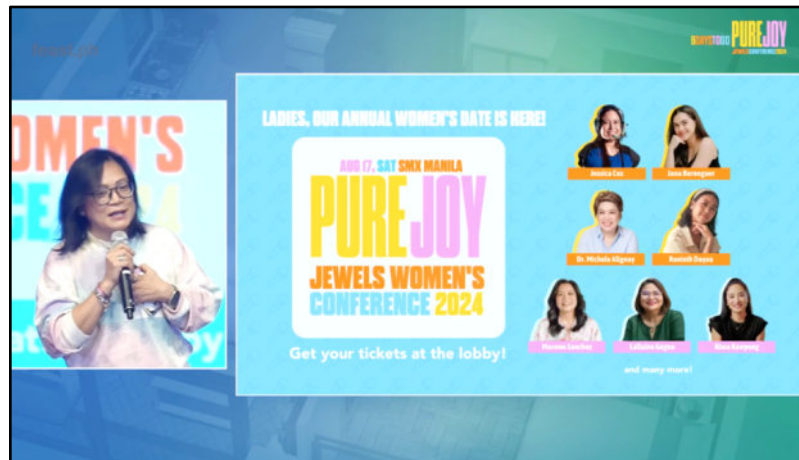
If you believe that's a prayer you want, put your hands over your chest and say:

Jesus, I am a sinner in need of a savior. And right now, I need You to rescue me, to reclaim what the enemy has taken away from me, to rescue me, Lord.

Thank You for this rescue mission that You are restoring my family, starting with me, to that place of peace. Bring me to that place of peace and make me Your vessel in this world. Thank You, Jesus. You are mine and I am Yours.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.





SIS. MAROWE SANCHEZ:

If there's a lady beside you, please tell her, "You're beautiful."

Every week we've been inviting all the ladies to join our annual Jewel's Conference: *Pure Joy*.

It will be this Saturday, August 17-- six days from now.

Sisters, I hope you already have your tickets. This will be a day for us-- our *Me* time, our day of reflection and bonding with all our, of course, girlfriends, with our mothers, with our daughters, barkada.

So, please, please join us because as you know, we all need, especially us women, to have this intentional pause, so that we can refill our love tanks. We need this time for us. It's not only our husbands who fill up our love tank, it's most especially when we are with our friends, when we are with our girl friends when we are with people with whom we can express ourselves.

What I like about Jewels Conference is that we get to share with one another even if we don't know each other. A lot of us there come for the first time and just want to listen and be reflective.

So, please join us. It will be face-to-face and also, there will be an online option for those who cannot join us on Saturday at the SMX Convention Center.

Please be with us and experience pure joy with God and with one another.

Thank you so much.

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Happy Birthday, Bro. Audee!



BRO. BO SANCHEZ:

Let's pray for Audee. It's his birthday!
Thank you, Bro. Audee, for leading us.
Thank you so much.

*Father in Heaven, You are so good
for giving this man to the church. And Thank You,
Lord, that you have prepared him to do this work.*

*Thank You that he is such a great blessing not only to us but especially to his
family. Thank You for blessing his family.*



*Father in Heaven, we claim for provision, for supply that
whatever he needs to love You and love Your people, You
already are doing it. You are opening the storeroom of Heaven
and every gift that he needs is now available.*

*Full access-- we're claiming this: wisdom, strength, health,
material blessings, encouragement during times of
discouragement, all the friends that he needs, all the support
that he needs. Thank You, Father. We're claiming this
for him and his family. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

BRO. AUDEE VILLARAZA:

Thank you for trusting me to be your leader. Thank you
for being part of my big spiritual family. It's such an honor to
be able to lead such a humble, selfless Community. Thank you
to my family for surprising me today.

Thank you, Everybody. I hope that you are blessed today.
Next Sunday we will have a Grand Feast.

Have a wonderful Sunday!





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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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.

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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.**

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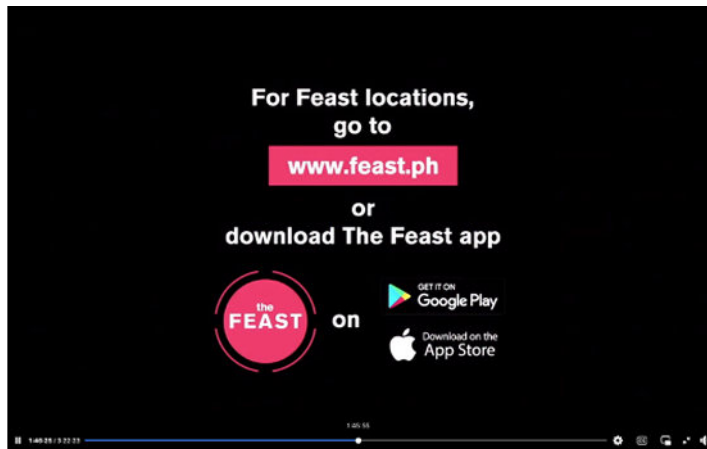
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Go and make disciples of all men.
— Matthew 28:19

