



FAMILY

MARCH 24, 2024

What Is Your Highest Goal?

ONE DAY, a very frustrated father told me, “I don’t understand. My eldest daughter is Summa Cum Laude. But my youngest son is Summa Sablay. Mabait siya. Bobo lang. Bakit?” (He’s good. Just dumb. Why?)

I told him, “Both your children are bright. They’re just bright in different ways. Psychology says there are nine intelligences. Some are Mathematical, others are Musical, some are kinesthetic, etc. As a father, your role is to celebrate your children with their different gifts.”

Here’s the mistake this father was making: Making gifts the highest goal of life. This is where conflict comes from.

But love must be the highest goal.

This is what we’ll talk about today.

May you have a healing Feast today!

May your dreams come true,

Bo Sanchez



WELCOME
to our Feast Series
MESSY SAINTS:
Love Thy Neighbor
(Even If They Drive You Nuts)
Solving the Problems
in 1 Corinthians
Talk 4: Gifted But Divisive



To Be or Not To Be ...

THAT's the famous line in William Shakespeare's tragedy, *Hamlet*. In a soliloquy, Hamlet, speaking to himself, ponders over the morality of killing his uncle who poisoned Hamlet's father. He asks which is better for anyone, or himself: to die or to live: "To be, or not to be, that is the question."

This issue of *The Feast Family* asks the question-- but not in the same vein as Hamlet's plight.

In his homily in last Sunday's Feast, Fr. Cris Cellan, expounding on the Gospel John 12:20-33, asked: Is your life goal to be like Jesus for others? To be, or not to be, *page 3*.

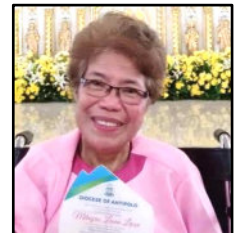
Bro. Bo Sanchez, introducing this Sunday's Feast Talk, Talk 4 of our series, *Messy Saints*, says the talk is also about our life goal: to be a model of God's Love for others. To be or not to be, *page 1*.

Bro. Didoy Lubaton, presenting Talk 3 last Sunday, zeroed in on the important question about your relationships: Is your goal to be correct or to be compassionate? To be or not to be, *page 13*.

Sis. Cath Catan, welcoming us to The Feast, and exhorting us about our Love Offering, put forth this question: Are you the kind of person willing to give and allow and trust God to multiply what you give? To be or not to be, *page 7*.

One who has decided to be a positive bearer of God's Love is Sis. Milagros Lacsá (*right*), a beneficiary of our Jesus Christ Cares for Cancer. She no longer needs to ask: to be, or not to be, *page 24*.

To be or not to be... What is your question?



All for God's Glory,

Randy Borromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director





FLASHBACK!

MARCH 17, 2024

Holy Mass



Homily

REV. FR. CRIS CELLAN
on the Gospel John 12:20-33

Excerpts:

Upon reading our Gospel for today, the first thing that came to my mind was the homily of Cardinal Jose Advincula last January 6, 2024, the midnight Mass before the Traslacion of The Black Nazarene (solemn transfer of the image) from Luneta (Rizal Park), Manila, to the Quiapo Church.

Immediately, I reflected on this particular Gospel text because this is the same Gospel text that Cardinal Jose Advincula shared with us on that night.

The Gospel is from John 12:21: *"So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."*



Chancery, Arzobispado de Capiz Facebook

The Gospel Message: 3 Important Points

Cardinal Advincula reflects on three important points:

1. To See Jesus

The Cardinal points out our inner longing for God. We all have the desire to see God because we come from God. We are programmed as part of The Trinity. The Trinity is living in us. So, whether we like it or not, we are made for God. We were created in the image and likeness of God.



2. To Be Seen by Jesus

Long before we wanted to see Jesus, God had seen us first-- because He is omnipresent. He is beyond time. He is yesterday, today, and forever. He has loved us first.

St. Augustine said, "God has loved us as if we were the only ones to love."

3. To Show Jesus

This is the practical application of what Christian living is all about.

In the end, Cardinal said, "A true devotee is not a fanatic. A true devotee should be a role model. A role model should always show Jesus to others."



First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers the day I took them by the hand to lead them forth from the land of Egypt; for they broke my covenant and I had to show myself their master, says the Lord. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord. I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer will they have need to teach their friends and relatives how to know the Lord. All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord, for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more.



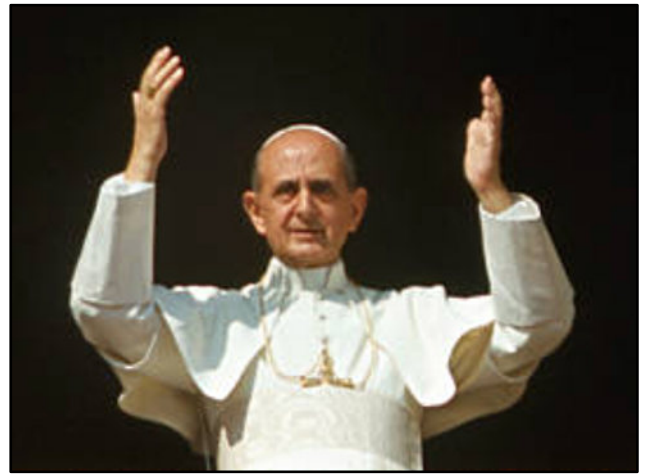
Jesus in You

One proof that you can show Jesus is when a person whom you do not know comes to you and tells you, "I see Jesus in you."

That is our primary objective because that is the first Christian missionary act.

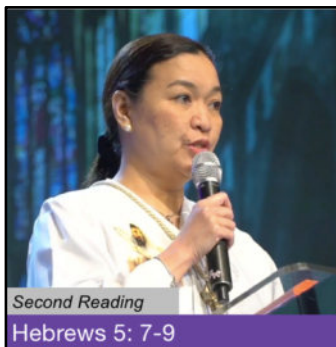
Pope Paul VI says: "Our first missionary act is to become credible witnesses of Christ's Presence to others."

So, starting with that, we realize that in many ways, we are like those Greeks who wanted to be near Christ. They wanted to see Jesus and in the original Johannes 9 (9th chapter of the Gospel of John) in the eyes of faith.



Getty Images <https://www.gettyimages.com> › photos › pope-paul-vi

When you want to see Jesus, you believe in Jesus. The Greeks then were the new converts to Christianity. We can readily identify with them since we are not Jews. We are foreigners or outsiders. They spoke of our desire to see Jesus.



Second Reading: Hebrews 5: 7-9

7 Who in the days of his flesh, with a strong cry and tears, offering up prayers and supplications to him that was able to save him from death, was heard for his reverence. 8 And whereas indeed he was the Son of God, he learned obedience by the things which he suffered: 9 And being consummated, he became, to all that obey him, the cause of eternal salvation.

Role Model

If I would paraphrase Cardinal Advincula's homily, it would be this: "A Christian devotee is a role model who truly shows Jesus Christ."

But based on our Gospel today, the most effective way to show Jesus Christ is through the Way of The Cross.

Jesus said, *"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life."*

Do we want to see Jesus? Of course, we do.

But the next question is, "Do you also want to die for Jesus?"

We have to die because it is only in death and in dying that we will have life. It is only when we offer ourselves to God through heroic sacrifice-- by loving others without measure.

Our primary mission in life is to be a loving person and to engage in a loving relationship. That is the only way to the Way of The Cross-- even if it costs us our own life.

No cross, no glory.

No suffering, no crown.

No Good Friday, no Easter Sunday.

We will all have to pass through this way because there is life after death.



Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

R. (12a) *Create a clean heart in me, O God.*

3 *Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy great mercy. And according to the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my iniquity.*

4 *Wash me yet more from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.*

R. *Create a clean heart in me, O God.*

12 *Create a clean heart in me, O God: and renew a right spirit within my bowels.*

13 *Cast me not away from thy face; and take not thy holy spirit from me.*

R. *Create a clean heart in me, O God.*

14 *Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and strengthen me with a perfect spirit.*

15 *I will teach the unjust thy ways: and the wicked shall be converted to thee.*

R. *Create a clean heart in me, O God.*



SIS. CATH TAN:

GOOD MORNING! WELCOME TO THE FEAST!

Do we have first-timers? Warm Welcome!

I am Cath. I am one of the Feast Youth missionaries and also the Youth coordinator here in The Feast Bay Area. So, while you prepare your Love Offering, write on your envelopes your prayer requests, and thanksgiving-- we pray for them.

I just want to share a story from the Bible. It is one of the miracle stories in the Gospels -- when Jesus fed the five thousand. After He preached, the apostles said they would let the people go home so they could have their dinner already.

But Jesus said no need to do that... A young boy had two fish and five loaves of bread and Jesus broke the bread... and you know the rest... He was able to feed not only five thousand because the food was more than enough for them.

Why am I sharing this, Brothers and Sisters?

I've been in the Youth Ministry for eight years-- five years of those as a missionary. Usually, I am asked, "How do you survive as a missionary?"

As you can see in my body, there has been no moment when God let me go hungry. Really, I don't know where everything I need would come from-- I have many stories about this-- but simply, I believe the Lord provides and at the same time, the Lord blesses all of us.

Love Offering

What we missionaries can afford to give, what we have: two fish and five loaves of bread. As a student when I was starting in the Youth Ministry, all I could afford to give was P20.00-- plus, as with my co-members, our time and talents. When I turned missionary, we were jittery because we thought we didn't have enough resources to be able to feed the young people who were members of our Light Groups. They were also students who didn't have enough budget for their needs. Also, we were renting a venue near where the students were... But generous people donated what we needed.



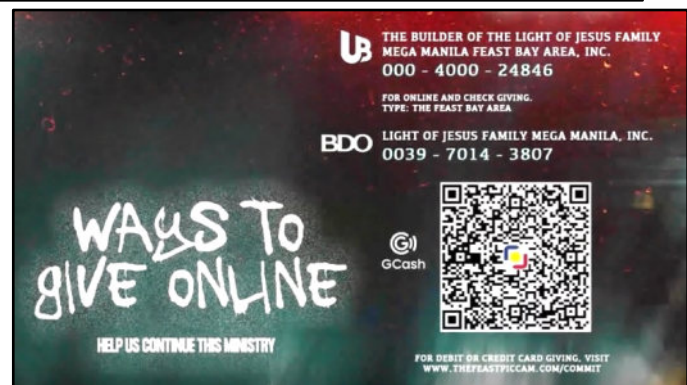
Again, it's not about what we have, but how we allow the Lord to multiply what we give...

You don't see them, but even co-servants go through difficult times, they have problems, they have needs-- but with love, with smiles, they are here serving you.

Also, we want to thank you all for giving your time, your talent, your treasure.

With that, we invite you to stand up and let's pray:

Dear God, Thank You. We praise You. We glorify You. We adore You. We Thank You for waking us up this morning and for this wonderful day in this church. Here is what we have, Lord. This is a labor of love. We worked hard for this. This is all we have. But use it where you wish to use it. Use it so that we can bless more and more people. We can bless others. You take care of us. And I pray for all the desires of the people in this room, Lord. We lift them to You. Mama Mary, intercede for us. And we ask all these in Jesus' Mighty Name. Amen.



Worship!

SIS. VANYA CASTOR:

Every time we come and worship, we create a place of meeting with God-- for more and more of God to fill this big place.

So, today, bring all you've got, lay them down, and allow God to touch them with His miracles, His grace, and His saving power.

Let's give God the praise that is due His Name.

To His Name who deserves all the glory, all the power, forever and forever. Let's go!

Father, we Thank You that You never fail to pick us up from whatever we seem to be --- whether it's just beside You or far away from You. As we worship, God, we make this song a prayer. We want to be more like You. So, if there's anything that's still holding us back from giving our all here in Worship today, we let it go. And we worship today, receive You. Because You are all we are ever going to need, God.





BRO. DIDOY LUBATON:

You know what? Farmers, they need to prepare the soil before they plant so the plants will grow and bear fruits.

In the medical field, the surgical site needs to be prepped well enough so that when the procedure is done, it doesn't go infect, hurt, and complicate the patient in the long term.

Worship is a preparation-- preparing the spiritual and the emotional, and the mental, even the physical aspects of us. So that the Word of God may be planted well. That it's not just about the planting. It's the growing, it's the reaping, being fruitful.

Some of you may be not used to this-- especially if it's your first time. But I encourage you today that you don't look at the Worship leaders, don't look at the lights, don't just even be meticulous about that song.

The main purpose of why we worship is Who we worship. So, I'm going to ask you and encourage you, to call on the Name of Jesus. It is He who we worship. And our goal is not just to be happy, to be joyful in this life. Our goal is to be like Jesus. To be loving, giving, and serving.

Not for us, God, but for You, through You, and with You.

So, I encourage you all, to lift your hands and call on the Name of Jesus -- the great, the beautiful, powerful Name of all, the One who makes miracles, the One who provides healing, the One who gives us all that we need.

Call on Jesus: *Lord, all we want is to be like You.*

Come on, lift your voice. Shout out: Jesus!

Give praise to Jesus. Oh, we love You, God. We want to be like You. Thank You, God. Glory to You. Amen.

Welcome each other to The Feast. This is our gathering of the Light of Jesus Family. Welcome Home!

Those watching online, welcome to the Family. We recognize you, we value you. This is *us*-- our Feast Family. Give the Lord a big, big hand, Everybody!



NOVENA TO GOD'S LOVE DECLARATION OF ABUNDANCE

We are on the Third Talk of our Feast series called *Messy Saints*.

And I'm going to ask you one simple question today: *Are you ready to follow Jesus?*

Following Jesus is not easy. It's taking our cross, it's bending our knees for others.

And I need your help to preach it with me.

So, let's declare our favorite prayer in The Feast.

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



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

Talk



BRO. DIDOY LUBATON:

Excerpts...

We can be correct in our ways but sometimes, it's not caring for others. Let me expound on that as we preach today.

The third problem that Paul addressed to the Corinthians is this food offered to the idols.


Should the people eat or not eat food offered to the idols?



Our one big message for today is "Others First."



Read with me 1 Corinthians 8:



1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-5, 7, 9-12 NLT

¹ Now regarding your question about food that has been offered to idols. Yes, we know that 'we all have knowledge' about this issue.

But while knowledge makes us feel important, it is love that strengthens the church.

² Anyone who claims to know all the answers doesn't really know very much. ³ But the person who loves God is the one whom God recognizes.

⁴ So, what about eating meat that has been offered to idols? Well, we all know that an idol is not really a god and that there is only one God.

⁵ There may be so-called gods both in heaven and on earth, and some people actually worship many gods and many lords.

⁷ However, not all believers know this. Some are accustomed to thinking of idols as being real, so when they eat food that has been offered to idols, they think of it as the worship of real gods, and their weak consciences are violated...

⁹ But you must be careful so that your freedom does not cause others with a weaker conscience to stumble.

¹⁰ For if others see you—with your 'superior knowledge'—eating in the temple of an idol, won't they be encouraged to violate their conscience by eating food that has been offered to an idol?

¹¹ So because of your superior knowledge, a weak believer for whom Christ died will be destroyed.

¹² And when you sin against other believers by encouraging them to do something they believe is wrong, you are sinning against Christ.



Conflict

Some of you may be wondering what is happening. There are so many issues about the food!

Here's the context:

The Gospel was preached from Israel all over the world. The Gospel traveled across the nations.

It also went up to the nation of Greece, in the middle of Corinth.

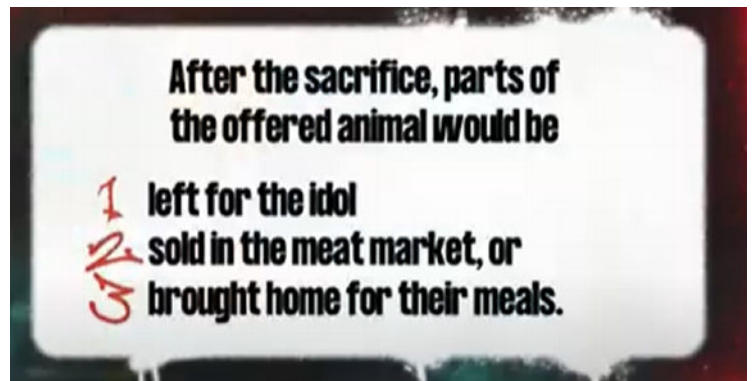
Paul was tasked to preach to the Gentiles -- the non-believers. Since Paul experienced a conversion, he started to preach the Gospel which was really converting people to Christianity.

It took a while but here it is:

There are some churches of Christ's followers coming together from different places.

Take note that people from Greece grew up with their mythology.

They were surrounded by temples for Zeus, Apollo, Aphrodite, and Athena.



The capital of Greece, which is Athens, comes from the worship of Athena, goddess of heroic endeavor and military victory.

The people are used to offering animal sacrifices at the temple.

Number 1 is clear. Christians know that they should not eat what was offered to the idol.

But Numbers 2 and 3 are not clear-- a gray area. So, a conflict.



The Food Issue

Imagine: In Corinth at that time, there was a wedding feast, there was a banquet, a birthday party, or a simple business meal in someone's home.

Some of the hosts were not yet deep in faith.

But some already were. For them, it was normal to include in their meal the meat from the temple.

If you are a Christ follower already, you cannot be choosy about the food that the hosts have prepared for you. It would be impolite to ask if the meat came from the temple.

This food issue was dividing people.

Another context here is that Paul was a tentmaker. He was an entrepreneur. He didn't demand income from the church to sustain him. As an entrepreneur, he understood that it was not just about being formal and strict. It was all about relationships.

What would a good Christian do at that time? Most members of the church in Corinth knew that food was good. They believed it was okay to eat the meat and that the people who were complaining should grow up.

But some minorities of the Christian church in Corinth believed otherwise. And Paul needed to address this because it was already dividing the church and hurting the relationships.

Here's a side note: If something is already hurting relationships, do something about it. Paul tried to address the food issue.



**THE FOOD ISSUE WAS
DIVIDING THE CHURCH.**

1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-5, 7, 9-12 NLT

⁷ However, not all believers know this. Some are accustomed to thinking of idols as being real, so when they eat food that has been offered to idols,

they think of it as the worship of real gods, and their weak consciences are violated...

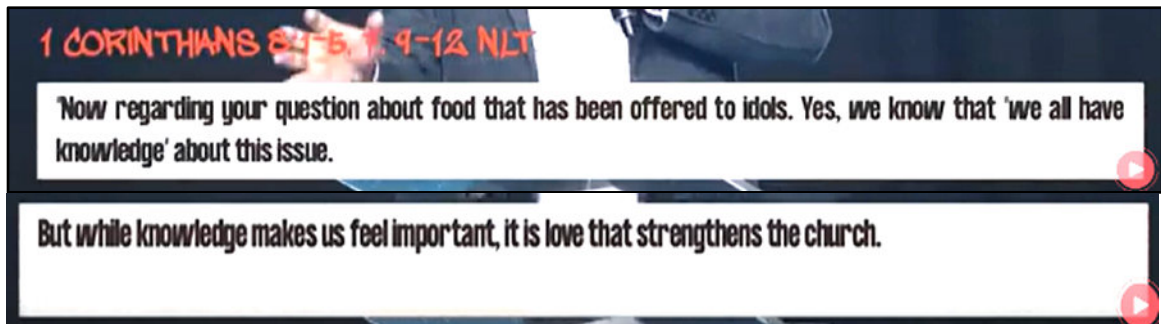
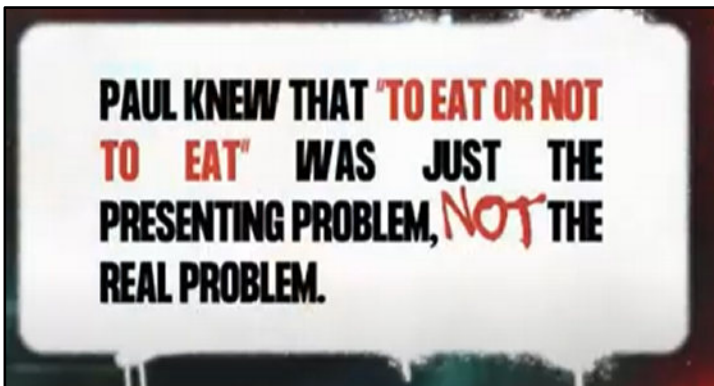
To Eat or Not To Eat

The question seems to be "To eat or not to eat?"



But Paul knew that there was a deeper relationship problem that was dividing the church. That's why he addressed it wisely.

On the surface, it was a theological question-- but underneath, it was a pastoral question. This food conflict was already making matters worse for the early church that was forming in Corinth. Furthermore, Paul said:



Paul's address to the Corinthians was very brilliant. Instead of asking if it was lawful to eat the food offered to others, he was asking: "How can we strengthen our relationships?" He flipped the question to something deeper: "Is this helping us or is this hurting us?"





What's Important

It was clear that Paul wasn't just looking at what they were doing-- but he was looking into who they were all becoming as a church. Paul's advice was deep yet practical.

**YOU MAY BE DOING WHAT IS LAWFUL,
BUT ARE YOU CAUSING CONFLICTS OR CREATING COMMUNITY?**

1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-5, 9-12 NLT

⁹ But you must be careful so that your freedom does not cause others with a weaker conscience to stumble.

¹⁰ For if others see you—with your 'superior knowledge'—eating in the temple of an idol, won't they be encouraged to violate their conscience by eating food that has been offered to an idol?

¹¹ So because of your superior knowledge, a weak believer for whom Christ died will be destroyed.

It was a blow to the heart: *You may be correct but are you compassionate?*

YOU MAY BE CORRECT, BUT ARE YOU COMPASSIONATE?

The “Others First” culture is not so popular because what we see on social media platforms is this: We have this banner statement that says, “Stop caring what others think.”

There is some truth to it especially if you are a person who is greatly controlled by the approval of others. But let's be careful about how to apply it.

This is tough. Please stop caring about what others think of you. But I want to sublimate it by saying, “Can you instead think of how God thinks of you?”



The Gray Area

“Stop caring what others think” can be applied selfishly too if all you do is think about yourself and not think about others. Let me give some examples that fall into the gray area:

1. Unmarried couples who go on vacations together. They post photos of their vacation on their social media pages. People who know that they’re not married would see their photos and they may not approve of it.

The unmarried couple can say, "We stayed in different bedrooms. We did nothing wrong. We don't care about the opinion of others!"

Yes, you can be as pure as you can be... The problem, however, arises when some people who have a weaker faith may not fully understand. They might think that it's okay to do that.

It's tough to preach this but I'm trying to preach what Paul was trying to say to the people who were divided in Corinth.

Our actions may be a scandal to others. As good Christians, let's be mindful. Let's act with care. There is truth in “not caring what others think” but we must care for others too. We might lead them to untoward actions because of our example.

2. Can you imagine Bro. Bo driving or riding a Porsche or a Ferrari? Or living in a yacht? Or wearing a Patek Philippe watch? I cannot even pronounce it properly. They say that it's not a watch but a "timepiece."

Imagine our spiritual leader living in a grand mansion. I'm so thankful that I follow Bro. Bo because he lives simply. He has all the right to live luxuriously. He's an entrepreneur. He's not earning from our ministries. He even gives to our ministries. He knows and his family knows that they have a responsibility to the Community.

We follow their example. We can adjust our wants and wishes so that we can serve others well.

Again, it's not bad to dream big and to invest big to achieve big. But let's be mindful that in the process of achieving big, others may be watching. We don't explain ourselves. We don't walk around with captions about our context.

Big Mistake

3. Who among you here likes to swim?
Some find people wearing swimsuits scandalous. But of course, if that person is in the swimming pool, what do you think she would wear?

Some aren't comfortable to see people wearing gym clothes that are too "tight." But what do we expect them to wear when they're in the gym?

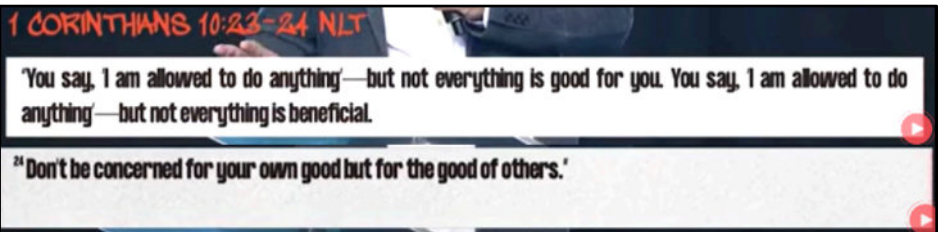
One of the biggest mistakes in our society today is that we make the gray area into black and white, and the black and white into a gray area.

Paul addressed the people by not directly telling them what to do and what not to do. He implied for people to think, to do things with discretion, and to have prudence in their actions.

You may not know it, but people follow you. People look at your example. Whether you have the right to do things or not, you influence people. Our invitation is, as good Christians, let us lead people to Christ, not to ourselves.

4. Does it apply to our relationships?

Paul gives these concluding words on the subject:>



The world says, "Me first." But God says, "Others First."

The WORLD SAYS, ME FIRST. BUT GOD SAYS, OTHERS FIRST. You have all the rights in the world. If you want to, you can do so. But before you do, stop and think of your impact on others. Think of how others may perceive this. Will we be leading others to Christ or the other way around?

Even in Our Relationships...

I'd been married to my wife for 10 years this July. God is good. We are thankful for the Community that helps sustain our marriage and our family. But I cannot count how many times in those 10 years we fought. My wife is listening, but I will preach this, anyway. We've had our arguments.

I am very articulate – let's say it as that. I can spin the conversation or the narrative my way. In the end, I would win... I may be right-- but I am not kind...

I'm confessing to you that this is my struggle too. I may have valid rights as a husband, as a father of our children, and as a preacher. But I forget to think about how my wife would feel and how I made her feel about herself. Sometimes, she feels so low, so bad, and it's hard to recover from it. Sometimes, I become the sin itself. I'm not bringing her closer to the Lord. Mea culpa. My mistake.

That is what Paul is preaching to us today: *Are we correct or are we compassionate?*



THE GOAL OF MARRIED LIFE IS NOT TO BE RIGHT. THE GOAL OF MARRIED LIFE IS TO BECOME JESUS TO YOUR SPOUSE.

Many times, I'm not being Jesus to my wife.

Admit it, I know that you have that struggle too.

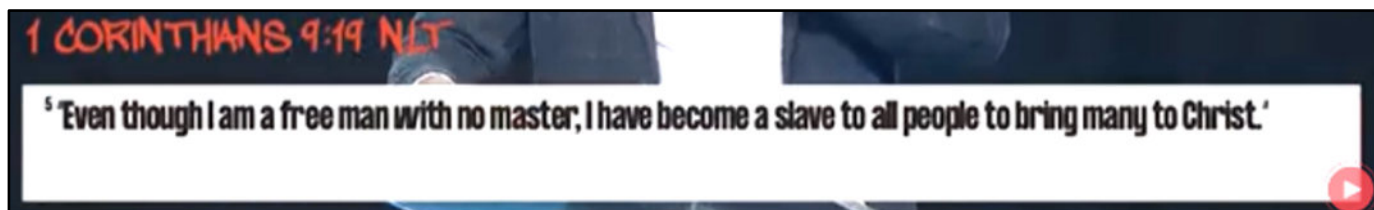
It gets the better of us. What do we do? We evaluate our #LifeGoals.

And talking about the writer of the letter to the Corinthians: St. Paul. I looked into his examples and I realized: Yes, the world tells us it's a life goal to be an achiever, to be the best that we can be, to be wealthy.

That's what the world says: Me first. But Christ says Others first.

Life Goal

And this is the Life Goal that I got from St. Paul. Let's read:



My goodness. I have never heard anyone say, "My life goal is to be a slave.

You know why Paul gets to say that? He has no earthly master-- but he has a Divine Master. This is where it gets so beautiful. I want to drive this home...

Paul said: "It is my life goal to be a slave for others. I will be a slave all my life." Because his goal is to bring many to Christ.

We look to Jesus who was a slave to all of us.

One Thursday night, the Divine Master did something only a slave was supposed to do. It was a beautiful symbol. You know what He did? The Divine Master, the Preacher – Jesus-- who healed many, who created a lot of miracles, who raised the dead to life again.

He wrapped a towel around His waist. He knelt in front of His subjects, washed each and everybody's dirty, stinky, and callous feet.

That is the God whom we serve. His name is Jesus.

He tells us: "You may be right but think about others."

He did not just wash people's feet. He served by taking on the cross.

That's why He says, "You want to follow me? Take up your cross and follow me."



JESUS IS HERE. HE IS IN THE ROOM. HE WANTS TO WASH YOUR FEET.

Jesus is here. He's in this room. Before He asks you to follow Him, He wants to wash your feet first. After doing so, He asks you to go and do the same.

Commitment

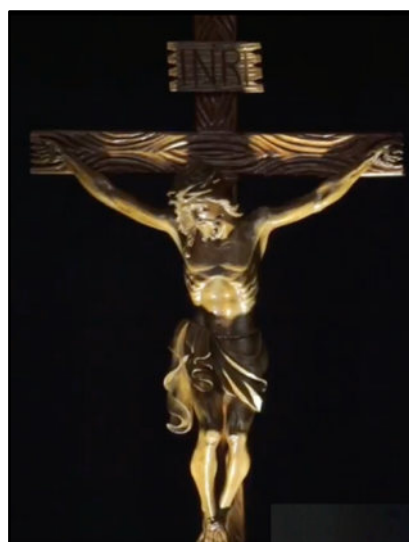
Some of you may be new to The Feast or maybe not so deep in faith yet.

To you-- and even to those who've been long in the Community-- I apologize to you on behalf of all the spiritual leaders. We're sorry.

There are times that we may be not good examples to you. We're sorry. I speak on behalf of all the servants as well. We're not living a perfect life, but we are aspiring to do so. It's a daily struggle. For our faults that led you to sin, that we did not give good examples, that we scandalized you, we're sorry. Please forgive us in the Name of the Lord.

Second, for all of us here who are or would be Christ-followers, trying to become disciples of Jesus, the call of Paul to us today is to think about it, to be considerate of others, to have discretion, to have prudence, to be mindful of others, and to do things with care.

Because that's how God did it. He may have all the right as the King of the universe, Creator of all things. But what He did was very hard. He did not enrich himself with the wealth of the world. He served us.



We respond today, looking into Christ Jesus:

"Lord here we are. We're here to serve You. Thank You for reminding us today that it's not about just me but it's all about "we." In the Name of The Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I invite you to respond today to Christ Jesus who went on His knees to wash the disciples' feet. Humbled Himself as the Master to show us an example of how to lead, and serve, and love others.

This is us, Lord, worshiping You. Your children look to You and all we want is to be like You. Amen.





MERCY MINISTRIES

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

--Matthew 5:7

JESUS CHRIST CARES FOR CANCER PART 3

From Plasma to Faith

GOOGLE the meaning of *plasma* and you'll find out it is a white blood cell in the body that makes antibodies – proteins that protect you when substances you are not supposed to have enter your body. Part of our immune system, the antibodies bind the bad substances and eliminate them from our system.

Yes, plasma cells protect us from some infections that can cause all sorts of pains and illnesses we don't want to have.

So, we like plasma cells, right? But sometimes the plasma cells multiply more than what we need, crowding out the normal cells in our bones. The abnormal plasma cells build in the bone marrow and form tumors in many bones of the body. We know tumor – abnormal swelling of a part of the body-- in one word, *cancer*.

Doctors call those abnormal plasma cells *myeloma* – a blood cancer. Usually, there are no symptoms. Doctors find out about it only when they are treating other illnesses in your body. So, when it's diagnosed, you already have multiple bone lesions. So, they call the cancer *Multiple Myeloma*.

That's the name of my cancer.



By MILAGROS L. LACSA

Blessings and Burdens

Doctors don't know why people get the cancer. I don't know either why I have Multiple Myeloma.

But yes, I've gone through life's blessings and burdens.

Blessings include: Born on April 13, 1964, to Catholic parents Ceferino and Florencia Leona. I am living in Cainta, Rizal. I went to school – St. Joseph Elementary School of Cainta, graduated in 1976; Francisco P. Felix Memorial National High School, 1981; Siena College of Taytay, 1985, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Secretarial Education.

I went on to pursue further studies at the Mother of Life Catechetical Center, a school for professional catechists. I graduated in 1987.

Best blessing was in 1996. I got married to Domingo Lacsá, who was a Lupon Tagapamayapa (peacekeeper) in our Barangay. My hardworking husband also worked as a carpenter, cook, and mechanic.

He also served as a lay minister in our parish.

But major burden: Domingo suffered a heart problem and had a quadruple bypass in 2017. He passed on due to COVID in December 2020. He was only 57 years old.



Domingo though left me with two blessings, our children: Marian (*left*), now an accountant; and Gian Lorenzo (*extreme left*), a Hotel and Restaurant Management graduate.

But Gian has chosen not to get employed and instead be my full-time caregiver. Amid the demands of taking care of me, Gian continues to serve as an altar server. Marian likewise serves by providing technical support, operating the projector, and handling the PowerPoint presentation during Mass.

For the Lord

I work as head catechist at Mother of Life Catechetical Center Novaliches, run by the Diocese of Antipolo Catechetical Commission for the past 40 years.

With teaching catechism being my first love, I joined Our Lady of Light Parish in Cainta as a volunteer catechist in 1981.

Here I am with our leaders, from left: Fr. Cristopher P. Gonzales, Diocesan Catechetical Assistant Director; Bishop Ruperto Santos of the Diocese of Antipolo; Fr. Luisito Atanacio, Diocesan Catechetical Director.

Below, with fellow catechists.





Major burden is Multiple Myeloma.
But God's blessing is much bigger: Jesus Christ Cares for Cancer.
I have always believed God has a special way of connecting people.
I serve as catechist of St. John Mary Vianney Parish, Diocese of Antipolo,
in charge of formation programs for catechists of the parishes under the diocese.
In 2006, I conducted a yearlong formation program for catechists from different
parishes. And one of the participants happened to be Banjoy Santillan, representing
her parish.



Banjoy is a longtime devoted member of the Light of Jesus Family, serving in the LOJ Pastoral Care Ministry. And so, of course, she knew about JCCFC.

When she found out about my ailment, Banjoy promptly referred me to Jesus Cares which yes, started caring for me in August 2023.

Here we are, happy together: Banjoy and me, and Jesus on the Cross above us.



Priceless Gift

JCCFC has well blessed me with the resources I need to cope with the prohibitive medical costs of this ailment.

And priceless is the spiritual gift. Led by chairman Bro. Alo Gelano (*left*, with Sis. Maritess Cordero, Board secretary), JCCFC holds a general assembly of beneficiaries monthly at Robinsons Galleria, Quezon City, which includes faith-deepening talks.



As my caregiver, my son Gian attends the JCCFC Assembly. He has been blessed with this spiritual nourishment he shares with me. I see in him a more caring, loving son.

Above left, Gian with Betty Correos, JCCFC coordinator for me.

Above right, Gian at the JCCFC monthly assembly with JCCFC coordinators, *from left*: Betty Correos, Jolly Arquero, and Vilma Senador.

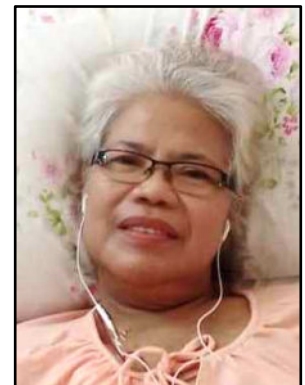
Through the JCCFC, Gian and I have become positive bearers of God's mercy and love. We are amazed to find ourselves walking with God's grace and strength.

I so need this assurance: that Jesus is with me, that with His healing power and miracles, He is in control of my situation.

Yes, I am calm and full of hope as at JCCFC, I've learned God's Word in Psalms 46:10 which gives me peace:

*Be still, and know that I am God! I will be honored
by every nation throughout the world.*

All honor and 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.

CHOOSE HOW YOU WANT TO GIVE

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

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

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

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



FAMILY ONLINE NEWSMAGAZINE

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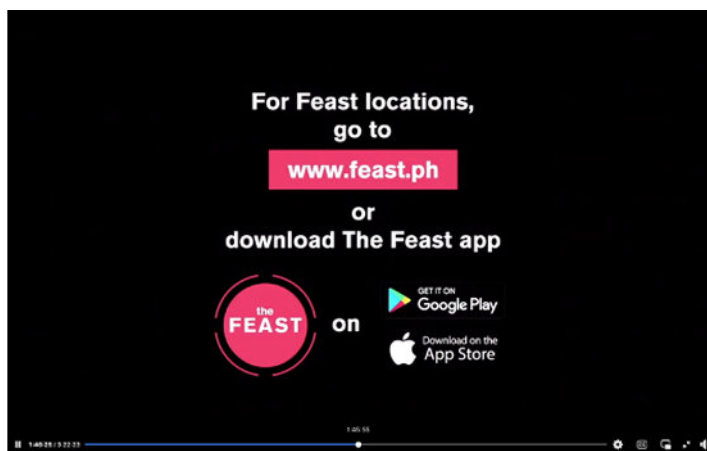
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Go and make disciples of all men.
— Matthew 28:19

