



'I Will... The Lord Will'

IT's already the month of April. Funny how this month begins with an "April Fool's Day" – where you usually receive a favor that appears true but it's actually a joke or prank.

Lent Season culminates this month with the Holy Week fast approaching.

The campaign season for the coming national and local elections is also at its height.

Through all these, there is this ultimate question: Are the things happening God's Will or just our will? Are the things happening in your life God's will, or just your will?

Is it "I Will" or "God's Will?"

It's tricky because you have to work hard and make things happen – in your relationships, health, finances, job or career, even in your being involved in what's happening

in our country. We shouldn't just be passive watchers or apathetic bystanders.

Yet, when do we do things and give it our all, and when do we stop and surrender everything to the Lord?

When is God telling you not to give up and continue trying and striving, and when is God telling you: "*Leave it to me, my child.*"

Today, in Talk 8: *Surely, The Lord Will* of our amazing series, *Who Can Lead Us*, *A People in Search of a King*, we'll dive deeper into knowing David -- after his breakthrough anointing by Samuel and breathtaking victory in defeating Goliath.

We'll realize why David is truly "a man after God's own heart". (1 Samuel 13:14).

We'll learn how to fully surrender to God -- and like David, proclaim "***Surely, the Lord will...***" (1 Samuel 26:10).

Get ready for another life-changing FEAST!

Welcome to The Feast where *You are loved!*

Mayroong Magandang Mangyayari sa 'Yo!

Alvin Barcelona

P.S. Step into God's Presence and experience His love even more this Holy Week. Join us in our Holy Week Retreat from April 17 to 20 – Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday at SMX Manila. Buy your tickets now and let God's Kingdom Come into your life.



Familiar and New

FAMILIAR? Yes, longtime Feasters would recognize him as Bro. Migs Ramirez, preacher, Worship leader, at the Feast PICC. But last Feast Sunday, we met him as Rev. Fr. Miguel Ramirez -- yes, *new*, just 11-day-old priest, preaching on the Gospel about the Prodigal Son -- a familiar story yet with new message by Fr. Ramirez, *page 3*.

Bro. Alvin Barcelona, familiar to us as Feast Bay Area District Builder, introduces a new Feast Talk-- Talk 8 of our series *WHO CAN LEAD US?*, *page 1*. Don't miss it, at the new Feast venue. Yes, *new* -- because PICC is under repair, so now the new venue is Rizal Park Hotel, also in the Manila Bay Area.



Another new: There are now two sessions in the morning-- 8:00 and 10:00. Last Sunday, Bro. Audee Villaraza, familiar Feast PICC Builder, led the *Novena to God's Love* prayer, *page 9*--- and *Love Offering* session, *page 20*.

Familiar Bro. Nico Narvaez (*below left*) led Worship in the 10:00 A.M. session, *page 8*, together with Bro. Amaro Estonato, so familiar to us,



already a mainstay Feast servant, who led the Worship in the two sessions, *page 7*.

Bro. Bo Sanchez, very, very familiar as our founder, was gracing some other Light of Jesus Family events for a while, so we welcome him as *new* preacher, tackling Talk 7, and leading us

to our *Baptism Renewal*, *page 10*.

And if you are among the 44 million viewers of the now familiar television series, *Batang Quiapo*, you know Nonie and Shamaine Buencamino, first-time, yes, *new*, star guests at the Jesus Christ Cares for Cancer General Assembly, *page 21*.

Yes, The Feast is as familiar as our Lord Jesus.

Yet, as promised in Lamentations 3:22-23:

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases
His mercies never come to an end
They are **new** every morning.*

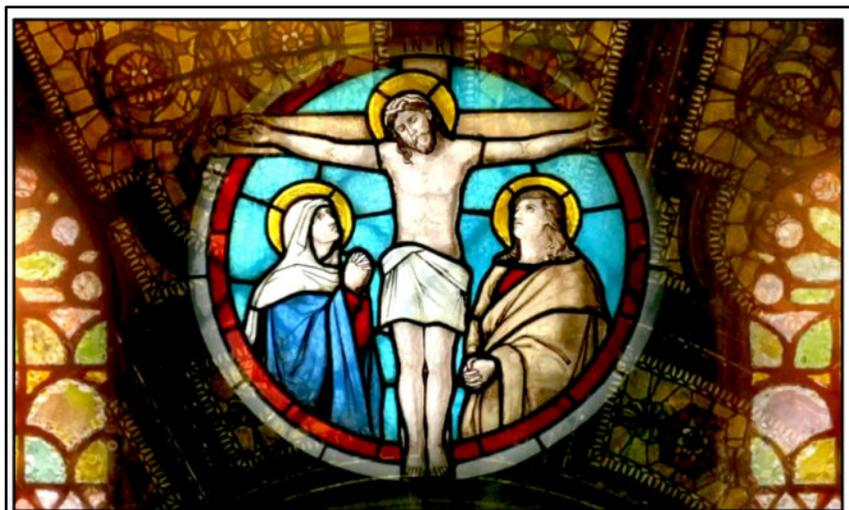


All for God's Glory,

Randy Borromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director



Holy Mass



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Homily

REV. FR. MIGUEL RAMIREZ
on the Gospel Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Excerpts:

It's good to be back. The last time I was here was pre-Pandemic or probably during the (Coronavirus Disease) Pandemic.

For those who are new at The Feast, I am Fr. Miguel “Migs” Ramirez. I am an 11-day-old priest. It's still very overwhelming, and it hasn't sunk in yet. I used to serve as preacher and Worship leader at the Feast PICC (Philippine International Convention Center). So, being here at The Feast feels familiar -- the faces, culture, and energy are so familiar. At the same time, it feels very new. We are in a new venue. I would have prayed that I would celebrate Mass in PICC.

It feels very new here because I'm not serving as a preacher or Worship leader. Who would have thought that I would be serving as your Mass presider?

It's a paradox of the familiar but very new. That's what I want to share with you today. God's love is always very familiar, but it is always completely new.

The FEAST FAMILY April 6, 2025 **3**

Familiar But New

The First Reading today from The book of *Joshua* tells the moment the Israelites are about to enter the Promised Land. They already defeated the walls of Jericho. Joshua is about to enter the Promised Land.*

Geographically speaking, biblical scholars would agree that that Promised Land is the same land where Abraham made a covenant with Yahweh. That was the same land where Abraham was a tent dweller or a squatter in that land. Some 600 years had passed after that time of Abraham.

For some 400 of those 600 years, the Israelites were living in Egypt. So, they did not know about this land anymore. The Israelites journeyed for 40 years in the desert only to return to that Promised Land -- not as tent dwellers but as land owners. It's beautiful --the familiar, but very new.



*Among the Israelites in Jerusalem, Abraham was the most faithful. So, God promised he would be the father of nations and give him an exclusive land for his clan. His son, Jacob, had 12 children, and among them, Jacob's favorite was Joseph who had God-given visionary dreams. One dream, which he told his brothers, was someday, they would bow down to him. They hated him and sold him to slavery in Egypt where he rose to power as governor. A severe drought hit Jerusalem so, Jacob and his sons fled to Egypt (Genesis 37). Years passed, after Joseph's death, the succeeding Pharaoh, fearing the Israelites' growing numbers and potential power, enslaved them. Later, Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt. They wandered in the desert for 40 years and eventually reached Canaan, the Promised Land (Exodus).



First Reading: Joshua 5:9,10-12

9 The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have removed the reproach of Egypt from you." 10 While the Israelites were encamped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, they celebrated the Passover on the evening of the fourteenth of the month. 11 On the day after the Passover they ate of the produce of the land in the form of unleavened cakes and parched grain. On that same day 12 after the Passover on which they ate of the produce of the land,

the manna ceased. No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan.



Grace Amid the Rock-Bottom

In the Second Reading --the Letter of Paul to the Corinthians-- St. Paul says:

"Whoever is in Christ is a new creation."

Again, we know that Christ is the same Christ yesterday, today, and forever. It's very familiar but if we are in Christ, we are a new creation.

In the Gospel, we know the story of the Prodigal Son.

I preached about this also in The Feast. That's why, when I was making the Homily, I was stunned. What else can I say about the Prodigal Son? It's like what Bro. Bo Sanchez and The Feast Builders have said everything they could about the Prodigal Son. But the Holy Spirit works.

What drew my attention was this: "When the younger son was far away from his father, he was almost going to eat the food of the pigs but nobody gave him any. *Coming to his senses, he thought...*"

Just that: *"Coming to his senses, he thought..."*

Eventually, this would lead to the son's going back. Why did it catch my attention? Wasn't he very far away from God? Wasn't he in the darkness of sin? Wasn't he at the rock bottom of his life?

But look at this: Even in the darkness and in the rock bottom of life, he came to his senses.

What is that called? That is called *grace*. Even when we are in the overwhelming power of sin, grace can enter.

This caught my attention because who among us is perfect? No one-- not even myself. When I am at the rock bottom of sin, grace can still operate.

So, what was the son thinking when he said: "How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat? But here I am, dying from hunger."

He went back to the memory of his father, to the memory of the banquet in their house, and the memory of the good food in their house. Those were very familiar to him.

That's what I know what love is -- the very familiar.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

17 Brothers and sisters: Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. 18 And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.





Challenge

Then, the son decided to go back and who made it new for him? It's the father who brought him the finest robe, the ring on his finger, and the sandals on his feet.

The familiar is always going to be there and God will renew us when we go back to the familiar. All of us are called to a life of repentance. All of us are called to a change of heart.

The challenge is to ask ourselves: "How far have we gone from God's love?"

Maybe, some of you feel that you're far away already. Maybe some of you feel that you're like the older son who is righteous but still far away from God.

I want us to be reminded: When was the last time you really felt that familiar love of God?

For me, it was here at The Feast. It was deciding to become a priest. I thought I would have a family of my own. I thought that I would serve God here at The Feast as a Feast Builder. It all felt very good and successful. But when I discerned, the familiar came back to me -- my younger days as a lector, my days as a parish youth minister in our church in Mandaluyong, and my days when I would listen to people pour out their stories.

I said, "Lord, those are more familiar to me. So, I courageously stepped out of my comfort zone to go back to the familiar and by the grace of God, it led me to where I am today.

What is that familiar to you? Maybe God is leading you back. Maybe God is leading you to see that new thing that He is creating in your life, right?

So, we pray: *"Father, Thank You for planting Your seed of love in our hearts. Many times, we go astray with sin and with dreams that are not our dreams. We go astray by filling in the expectations of other people. We go astray by the stresses and the troubles of life. But today, just like the prodigal son, we want to go back to what is familiar. We want to go back to Your love. May you renew us with Your love. Make us whole. Make us new. Amen.*

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 32:2-3,4-5,6-7

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)

6 The FEAST FAMILY April 6, 2025



Worship!

BRO. AMARO ESTONANTO::

You know, it's evident that God looks at us with so much favor and joy-- not because of how we appear, or our status, or even our achievements.

But because we are beloved.

So, we're going to celebrate that this morning.

Let's sing together:





BRO. NICO NARVAEZ:

Christ is our Rock!
Christ is the Rock that we stand on every day.
We go through trials. We go through things
that we cannot understand. And sometimes we just cry.
Sometimes, we just feel so bad.

The thing is we're being reminded today
that Christ is our Rock. Sing this out and believe
every word: Christ is my Rock!



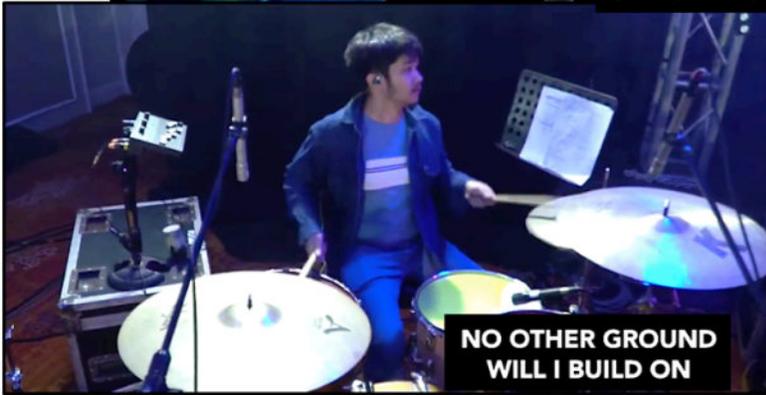
**CHRIST IS MY ROCK
MY LIVING HOPE**



I STAND ON HIM



ON HIM ALONE



**NO OTHER GROUND
WILL I BUILD ON**



**BUT JESUS CHRIST
THE CORNERSTONE**



NOVENA TO GOD'S LOVE DECLARATION OF ABUNDANCE

BRO. AUDEE VILLARAZA:

How many of you are fighting a battle in your life today? Raise your hand.

May I encourage you right now. God says that when you take His Word and when you apply it in your life, you are like a wise man, building his house on rock.

So, when sickness comes, when storms come, when difficulties come, when death comes, when oppression comes, when challenges come, the house will neither break nor fall.

Because your house is on a firm foundation. And this foundation has a name. The word has a name. His Name is Jesus. He is the Word that came and dwelt among us and He is our foundation.

So, why don't you lift your hands right now, come on, lift your hands and declare this with me: Christ is my Rock!

Let's lift our hands as we pray our favorite prayer here at The Feast:



Today, I receive all of God's love for me.
Today, I open myself to the unbounded, limitless,



Today, I open myself to God's blessings, healing, and miracles.
Today, I open myself to God's word so that
I am like Jesus every day



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



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

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

I get the joy and the honor of saying *Welcome Back*, to our beloved friend. Everybody, please welcome, to preach the Word, Bro. Bo Sanchez.

The FEAST FAMILY April 6, 2025 9

Talk



BRO. BO SANCHEZ:

You have a choice. You can live your life sitting on a rocking chair, sipping your tea on the porch, and watching life pass by-- not participating but just watching Netflix, KDrama, or what other people are doing.

The other choice is fighting battles with giants by holding a slingshot, getting hurt, getting wounded, and getting damaged.

You have a choice. What do you choose?

I've got good news and bad news for you.



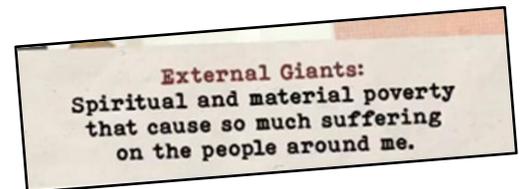
Now, between this teacup and this slingshot, the noble part of me would rather die fighting giants for the people I love. Yes, there's this other part of me that likes the rocking chair. I do. As you get older, you want to slow down.

In my almost six decades of living, I want to thank God that He has pulled me out of that chair many times and God has told me: "No! You fight. You serve. You care!"

Do not cross your arms amid a suffering world and say: "I don't care. Let me sip my tea."

God says, "You care. You sacrifice. You suffer for the sake of other people. I call you."

I fight the giants inside me first -- the giants of selfishness, pride, sin, greed, and lust. I'm also fighting the poverty around me -- material poverty, spiritual desolation, and the suffering of the people around me. I fight that every single day. I'll get hurt and I will lose but it is okay because if God is with me in this battle, I already have won.



Big Message

Whatever battle you're facing, if God is with you, you have already won.

I pray that you're receiving this in your spirit. If you're fighting a battle, my one big message is this:

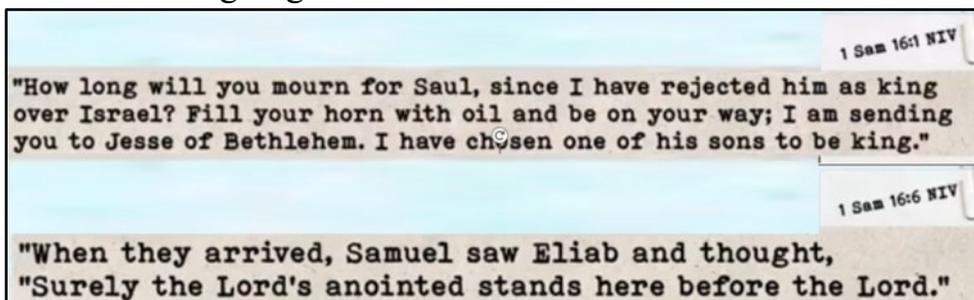
The battle is the Lord's, and you're going to win because God is there in your midst.

We've been going through this series, *Joshua*, *Judges*, and *Samuel*.

This is a group of people in search of a king. So far, the actors that we have been studying have not been great leaders, including the current one we're studying-- King Saul. He was so disobedient and so proud that God had to reject him.

Then, we receive this word: Samuel is sent to Jesse, who had a bunch of sons.

We're going to read this Word:



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

This was probably the eldest of the sons of Jesse.

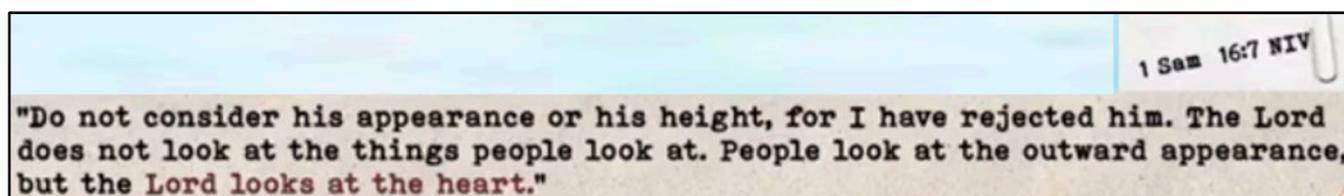
What an impression!

Remember Saul last week? We studied that he was handsome. He was head and shoulders above everybody.

So, he was Chris Hemsworth, right? Eliab was probably like Jason Momoa of *Aquaman*.>



So, Samuel says, "This is it." But God says...



This reminds me of the way we elect politicians. We elect celebrities. I'm not against celebrities running for political office. Some have character and capacity but some are elected just because they're photogenic.

Look at the Heart

What God is telling us: Look deeper.

Singles, this also applies to you.

I was talking to a young woman and I asked her, "What are you looking for in a husband?"

I was expecting her to say: "I want someone who has a sense of responsibility and who treats his mom and his sisters with such respect because that's how he will treat me."

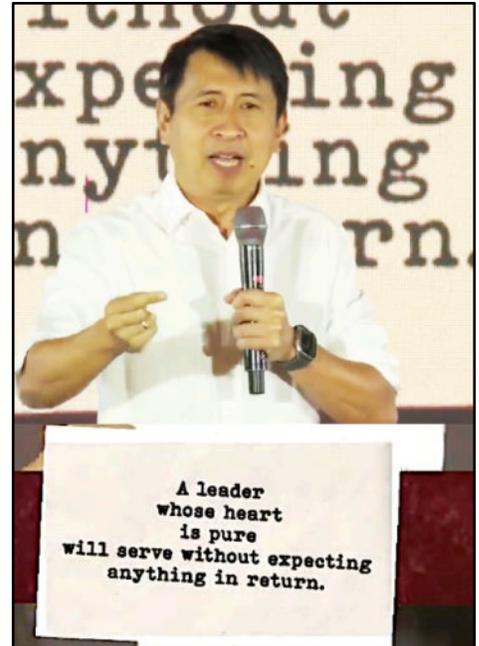
But she said, "I want a guy who looks really nice in a plain shirt, blue jeans, and black leather shoes."

I said, "Wow. That's deep. What if he's really cool, cute, dashing, drop-dead gorgeous serial killer?"

God says: "Look at the heart."

The biblical definition of *heart* is it includes *thoughts, feelings, will, motives, and moral character*. That's what God looks for in a leader. A leader whose heart is pure will serve without expecting anything in return.

Eliab was rejected. It was like an *American Idol* audition because all the sons paraded in front of Samuel-- but he was not the judge. He was just the host of the show. God was the judge. Every time a brother walks by and auditions, God says, "Nope, not this one... No, not this one... Not this one..."



"Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."

Jesse did not even think of David. Maybe he's too small. Maybe he's too thin. Maybe because he's a shepherd. During that time, being a shepherd was not a dream job. It required long hours and hard labor. It was hazardous to health to the point of death.

You don't want to be a shepherd. But David was one.

Maybe, you feel like you're David. You're too ordinary.

Let's pray: *Jesus, You brought me to this place for a Divine Purpose. Thank You for loving me and calling me to serve You. Speak to me. I will continue to fight giants inside and outside me as long as You are with me. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*





The Incredible Giant

When David finally came, the Lord tells Samuel:

1 Sam 16: 12-13 NIV
"Rise and anoint him; **this is the one.**" So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David..."

David was anointed.

This is what happens right after:

1 Sam 17:4-7 NIV
"A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span. He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels..."

In our measurement, Goliath would be 9 feet tall like the Incredible Hulk. Some 5,000 shekels is about 55 kilos, and that's just his coat of armor. Just the point of his spear is 6.5 kilos.

Not only was he Hulk but his armor was the Bronze Age equivalent of Iron Man's suit. So, think Hulk and Iron Man together.

There were two armies facing each other --the Philistines and the Israelites.

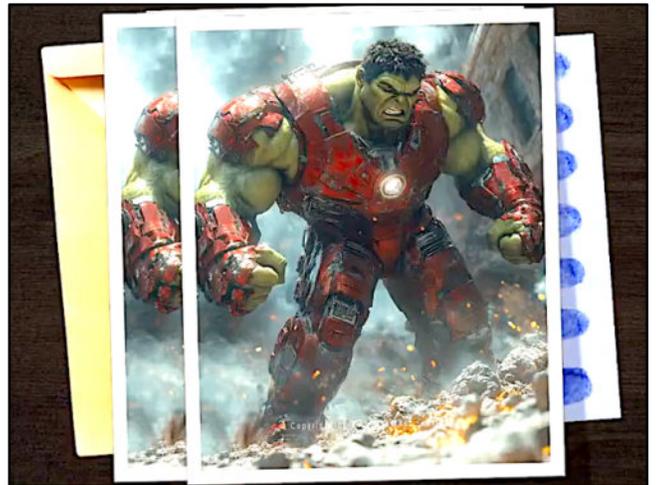
Then Goliath breaks in and starts speaking to the army of Israel.

Goliath says:

1 Sam 17:10-11 NIV
"**This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other.**" On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were **dismayed and terrified.**"

Goliath was like saying, "Hey, why do our armies fight each other? Many people will die. Just give me one man to fight with. Whoever wins this duel wins the entire battle."

Think about it. Who will volunteer to fight this Hulk-Iron Man guy? That's like going against Godzilla. It's like a death wish. It's like a suicide wish.



No Volunteers

Because there were no volunteers from the army of Israel, this is what happened...

1 Sam 17:16 NIV
"For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand."



Nobody wanted to fight. Is this not how our fears work? Every day, you overthink. It comes and then you think about it. The next day, you think about it again. Do you know when it stops? When you face your Goliath. That's the only way. That's the only time the Goliath stops.

Fear stops when you face your giant. This mental loop will replay in your mind until you do one thing: face your fear. You have to face your fears now.

I preach this a lot. I always tell people to *Do It Afraid*. But I've got better advice. I added four very important words: *Do It Afraid with God Beside You*.

This was not the first time that the Israelites faced a giant. A few books before, in the Old Testament, in the book of *Numbers*, these people came from Egypt and as they were moving to the Promised Land, they sent 12 spies. Ten of them came back with a bad report.

Do it afraid
with God beside you.

Num 13: 32-33 CEV
"And the people are like giants. In fact, we saw the Nephilim who are the ancestors of the Anakim. They were so big that we felt as small as grasshoppers."

Pictures are very powerful:
This image where the enemy is a giant and they see themselves as grasshoppers. Because of that, the Israelites did not enter the Promised Land. They got delayed. They walked in the wilderness for 40 years.



<https://www.freepik.com/free-photos-vectors/desert>

David Volunteers

Let's go back to our story. For 40 days, Goliath was speaking. But no one stood up to him.

1 Samuel 17:14 says, *"They all fled from him."*

There was one guy who could have fought Goliath. It was King Saul. He was not only handsome. 1 Samuel 9:2 says, *"He was head and shoulder taller than anyone else in the land."*

Saul may not have been 9 feet tall, but he was pretty tall. All of the brothers of David were soldiers in the army. David was the shepherd boy. Do you know who volunteered to fight Goliath?

The errand boy.

Jesse tells David, "Bring this lunchbox to your brothers."

So, David goes to bring food to his brothers. Then he hears Goliath's challenge.

He goes to King Saul and says, "I'll fight him."

Of course, everybody says, "You're small."

David says:



"The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine."

1 Sam 17:36-37 NIV

David was like saying, "Yes, I'm a shepherd but do you know the work of shepherds? The lions and the bears are not vegetarians. They like lamb chops. When I see one of my sheep disappear from my flock and I see my sheep already in the jaws of a lion, I get my slingshot and my rock, and I go into a battle. I rescue my sheep. If God did it before, He's going to do it again."

A few Talks ago, we said this: "You've got to rewatch your God moments."

David was recalling his God moments.

David was recalling his personal God-Moments.

When you are in front of your enemy, and you are overthinking, and you are overwhelmed by your fears, think back to those moments when God rescued you and say: "If God did it in the past, He's going to do it again."

Just One Stone

What King Saul said was, "You really want to fight Goliath? Here's my armor."

The best armor of the land was the king's armor.

David wore it, and he said, "It doesn't fit. It's too heavy."

He removed the armor of King Saul. David went as is where is.



David believed he needed only God's Presence:

1 Sam 17:45 NIV
"You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied."

1 Sam 17:47 NIV
"All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give all of you into our hands."

David uses one stone in his sling and it hits the target. Goliath falls.

All David needed was **God's presence.**

16 The FEAST FAMILY April 6, 2025



You have been fighting battles, and right now, you don't want to fight anymore because you've given up. The one who gives up loses. Are you fighting your own selfishness? Are you fighting your own laziness? Are you fighting your own desires? You know they are not from the Lord, but you keep on falling. You keep on sinning. You keep on going astray.

God is telling you: "Keep fighting."

Some of you have certain projects that God wanted you to do. You've given up because they are too stressful. But it doesn't have to be stressful if you go and fight that battle with the Lord's Presence, depending not on your strength and not on your sword or spear but on the Presence of God in you. Keep on fighting because there is Someone in our midst who is greater.

Like David, Jesus was a nobody. He was so ordinary. He came from Nazareth. There were only about 40 families in that town.

There was a saying back then, "Hello? Who comes from Nazareth?"

Yet, God chose the lowliest to show His greatness in David and in Jesus. If you feel like you're the lowliest, you are a candidate to show the greatness of God. Like David, Jesus battled the giants of death, sin, greed, self-pity, and self-condemnation.

Like David, the shepherd boy, Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd, and I will lay down my life for my sheep."

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

Jn 10:11 NIV



Hold On to Your Slingshot

There was one thing that was different between David and Jesus. David was fighting physical enemies. Jesus was fighting spiritual enemies.

We are also fighting spiritual enemies. Unlike David, Jesus allowed His enemies to kill Him so that He could defeat them with His Resurrection.

Right now, some of you feel defeated. Let's face it. We lose some of our battles. I want you to turn to this One who is called "victor." He is the One who, at the end of the day, wins every battle. If He wins, you also win no matter what battle you're in right now: facing a lawsuit, drowning in debt, being in a broken relationship, fighting an addiction, and you're losing.

I heard the phrase "win-win situation" for the first time from my friend who had Stage 4 cancer. Somebody with Stage 4 cancer should be moping, weeping, and feeling depressed. My friend wasn't. He was jolly as ever. I could not understand it.

I asked him, "Why are you smiling?"

My friend said, "Because I'm in a win-win situation. I'm praying for healing. All my friends are praying for healing. If God heals me, He will be glorified, and I will live my life and serve Him. If He does not heal me and I go to Heaven-- isn't that a win?"

All of us are in a win-win situation. But this is the most important: You lose if you sit on the rocking chair. You lose if you stop fighting. You lose if you say, "I don't care anymore."

Stand from that rocking chair. Put aside that teacup. Hold on to your slingshot, the gift that God has given to you. You might win. You might lose for a while. But in the end, if God is with you, you will win. Whatever you're facing right now, in the end, you will win. You've got to believe in that. Keep on fighting. Keep on struggling. Keep on serving. Keep on caring.



Renewal

Lift your hands and say this after me.

"Father, Thank You for the battle is Yours. This battle that I'm fighting, You own this. No matter what is happening now, I am in a win-win situation. No matter what happens, if You are with me, I have already won. In Jesus' Name. Amen."

I invite you to make Jesus stand beside you always, 24/7, for the rest of your life. That means you have to follow Him. That means He becomes the center of your life.

Let's renew our Baptismal promises. Put your hand over your chest. Say and mean every word: *"Jesus, I will fight my battles as long as You are beside me. Win or lose today, I will win tomorrow. I Thank You that my life is Yours and You have chosen me."*

When God looked at you, He said: "This is the one."

The same way He said to Samuel when David was in front of Him, God told Samuel: "This is the one."

In the same way, God is here right now. God looks at you and He's looking at all His angels. He's looking at His army, and He's saying :*"This is the one. I'm choosing this one who will love me. This is the one who will serve me. This is the one I call to build My Kingdom in this world. This is the one who will fight the battles and defeat the giants. This is the one!"*

Love Offering

BRO. AUDEE VILLARAZA:

The Battle is the Lord's. And if He is for us, who can be against us.

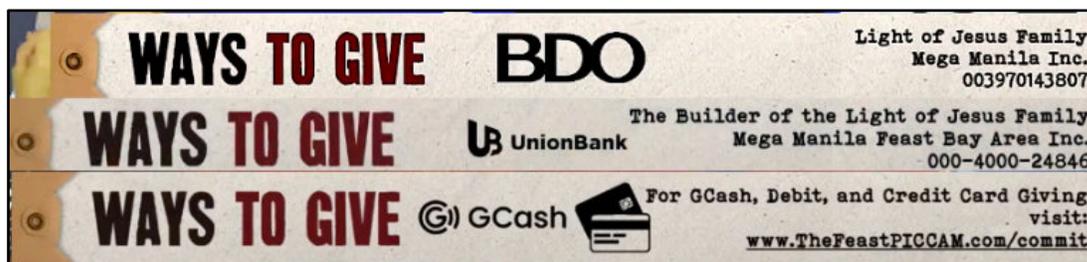
How many of you sometimes, if not all the time, have this fear of lacking resources. I agree with you. I share that sentiment.

My fear as Feast Builder, every week, is operational expenses. That's my fear. But I come to the Lord and I come before Him every week and you know what I do? I face my fear because I know and I trust the Lord, that He will provide through your generosity. I know that for a fact that the Lord will continue the mission of this Ministry simply because of other people who also face their fear.

So, if you're the kind of person afraid to give, to release money, I want you to release that fear every day and to simply say I believe that the Lord will provide for my needs.



So, simply lift your hands, Everybody, in the Presence of God, and say:
Lord, this is for You, for You have blessed me so much. It's my turn to give back So, I give this from heart and I trust that You will provide for all my needs. In Jesus' Name. Amen.





MERCY MINISTRIES

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

--Matthew 5:7

JESUS CHRIST CARES FOR CANCER *Surviving Quiapo ... and Life Itself*

QUIAPO. Old Downtown of Manila. Minor basilica enshrining the sacred Black Nazarene. Museums, art galleries. Underground black market. Snatchers. Pickpockets. Raon electronics hub selling cheap gadgets. Plaza Miranda, platform for those who rally to defend their side on national issues...

And the plot setting for the television drama action *FPJ's Batang Quiapo*, an adaptation of the 1986 film *Batang Quiapo* starring the iconic Fernando Poe Jr. which earned 44 million digital views on YouTube and Kapamilya Online *live* during its pilot week.

Created by ABS-CBN Corporation, *Batang Quiapo* stars Coco Martin, who is also writer and producer, as well as director along with four other directors. The show premiered on February 13, 2023, on the network's Primetime Bida line up.

We met two stars of *Batang Quiapo* – Nonie and Shamaine Buencamino as they kindly graced the General Assembly of Jesus Christ Cares for Cancer on March 19, 2025, thanks to the initiative of JCCFC President Gary Puno.

Nonie and Shamaine play key roles in *Batang Quiapo*, story of a man's struggles amid the impoverished environment of Quiapo, and how he survives – an inspiring lesson for those facing life's challenges, such as cancer. How? Read on ...



The FEAST FAMILY April 6, 2025 21

Life-Giving Message

Reel:

Batang Quiapo is the story of Jesus Nazareno Dimaguiba (Coco Martin) apparently named after Quiapo's life-sized dark image of Jesus carrying the cross, venerated by devotees who relate their burdens to the Passion of Christ.

Just as those who need defense for their national causes find a place in Quiapo's Plaza Miranda, those who need a defender for their daily struggles have also found one in Quiapo – in Jesus Nazareno Dimaguiba, better known as Tanggol, short for *Manananggol* -- yes, the Tagalog for *defender*.

To survive in Quiapo, Tanggol starts as a pickpocket, levels up as a big outlaw, and then becomes known as defender and savior of his hometown in Quiapo.

But at the outset, the first Tanggol has to defend is himself. And first, from his dark past, starting with his identity. His father is Ramon Montenegro (Christopher de Leon) who comes from a wealthy clan of crime lords.

Tanggol's mother is Olga Montenegro, also involved in the criminal world.

As the long story goes, Tanggol didn't know his parents. But as fate would have it, Tanggol crosses paths with Olga Montenegro during an encounter with common enemies.



Tanggol grows up with a single mother struggling through the harsh life in Quiapo, named Gracia Benito – played by Shamaine Buencamino.

At left, poster announcing casting of Shamaine as Gracia.

In this gangland, another professional criminal is Marcelo Macaraig – played by Nonie Buencamino – yes, the husband of Shamaine.

At right, Marcelo in a scene with Tanggol in ABS-CBN'S *Batang Quiapo* video.



Real:

And here are Nonie and Shamaine at the recent General Assembly of Jesus Christ Cares for Cancer singing, dancing, sharing life-giving message to cancer patients.



<https://www.facebook.com/p/Tanggol-Batang-Quia>

Something Good

“Could anything good come out of tragedy, one might ask. It could. And it did.”

That’s the declaration of Jesus Christ Cares For Cancer on its online page.

The statement continues: “JCCFC is born out of Reylindo “Rey” Ortega’s heart-wrenching meeting with Brian, a 7-year-old boy who succumbed to cancer in July 2013. The young boy’s passing disturbed him and made him more conscious of the plight of the poor afflicted with the illness.



“In May 2015, Bro. Rey himself was diagnosed with Stage 4 prostate cancer. With only six months to live, he resolved to spend his remaining days serving indigent cancer patients.

“JCCFC was officially registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 28, 2015. Bro. Rey devoted more than 48 years of his life helping the poor before his passing in June 2017.”

Bro. Rey founded several mercy ministries which are supported by Bro. Bo Sanchez and now sustained by our Light of Jesus Family and its spin off foundation, Shepherd’s Voice Radio and Television (SVRTV) which helps sustain JCCFC’s programs with monthly cash donations.



On June 30, 2017, Bro. Rey passed on, leaving the management of JCCFC in the very capable hands of Bro. Alo Gelano (*left*) as chairman.

JCCFC’s monthly General Assembly connects its beneficiaries, personnel, volunteer servants with supporters and donors providing financial assistance for the medical expenses of the cancer patients.



Here, Sis. Maritess Cordero, (in pink shirt and light blue pants) and Sis. Marin Uy (in floral blouse), who helps JCCFC gather more benefactors, join Nonie and Shamaine and other volunteers at the recent General Assembly.

Divine Design

Yes, as Quiapo finds a defender in Tanggol, the less fortunate, the sick, the dying find defenders in JCCFC volunteer officers and supporters – working hard to raise funds to be able to accommodate many requests for financial assistance.



If you feel the Lord is calling you to be a Tanggol for our beneficiaries – not the violent but the peaceful and productive way – check out LOJ’s headquarters at 60 Chicago St., Cubao, Quezon City, or call (02) 8725 9999. JCCFC accepts donations through Banco De Oro (BDO) Account No.: 01109 8000 356. All funds raised and donations received go to the beneficiaries.

JCCFC goes beyond Quiapo to reach out to those not only in need of material assistance but most important, spiritual nourishment.

JCCFC has a Prayer Partners Ministry led by Sis. Dr. Lota Fragante, designating one prayer partner for each cancer patient. The prayer partner is usually a volunteer servant of The Feast and thus makes sure the beneficiary receives the Mass, Rosary, and other spiritual benefits such as lessons from the life-changing talks at The Feast.

One example: Natividad ‘Betty’ Correos, stricken with Stage 3 breast cancer, found solace in her prayer partner, Feast Intercessory Ministry servant Ma. Lourdes ‘Lulu’ Balicha, who relentlessly petitioned God for Natividad’s healing. Now, Natividad has been in remission from breast cancer for the past five years. She will be onstage on Good Friday, April 18, 2025, at The Feast Holy Week Retreat. Indeed, God moves in remarkable ways.

Yes, God is in JCCFC even in the choice of themes and guests in its General Assembly.

The focus on Quiapo, for instance, must be by Divine Design.

Google *Quiapo* and you’ll find out it derives its name from *kiyapo*, or the water cabbage (*Pistia stratiotes*) abundant in the place.

You see, medical research finds cabbage as a potential cancer protection.

According to MedicineNet, “Red cabbage contains the powerful antioxidant anthocyanin, the same compound that gives other red and purple fruits and vegetables their vibrant colors. In the lab, anthocyanins have been shown to slow cancer proliferation, kill already formed cancer cells, and stop the formation of tumor growths.” (MedicineNet <https://www.medicinenet.com> › article)

Indeed, JCCFC is about the project of God through our Lord Jesus to embrace people hungry for material and spiritual nourishment with His unconditional love.

Ultimately, it’s about gaining an eternal place with God – because, as He promised in Matthew 25:36: *For I was sick and you took care of me.*





Thank You!

The Feast Family, now organized as the Feast Mercy Ministries, is a spin-off ministry of the Light of Jesus Family founded by Bro. Bo Sanchez.

Earlier named as Kerygma Family, The Feast Family is a unique online, non-physical, borderless, international community of friends who support each other's personal growth.

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

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

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

FOR EXISTING DONORS:

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

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

Email Address: jocelyn@kerygmfamily.com

Website: <https://kerygmfamily.com>

Our Partner Beneficiaries

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



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



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

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



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

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



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



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

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



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

CHOOSE HOW YOU WANT TO GIVE

1. Donate ONLINE (through credit card) Go to www.kerygmfamily.com and click 'DONATE' box Paypal I US Donations.
2. Pick Up from Your House or Office (Metro Manila Only) Cash or Checks Address Checks to Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation Inc. and call Joy at (+632) 725 -9999 loc 112 or text (+63) 922-828-9890 and we'll pick them up from your home or office.
3. Mail 12 Post-Dated Checks to Our Office for US and CANADA: Address Checks to Kerygma Family, 848 Rainbow Blvd # 1937, Las Vegas, NV 89107. For Other Countries/Philippines: Address Check to Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation Inc. and mail (registered mail) to Shepherd's Voice, 60 Chicago St., Cubao, Quezon City, Philippines 1109.
4. Directly Deposit to Our Bank Accounts. Deposit to Shepherd's Voice Account in any branch of these banks:
Account name: Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation Inc.
BPI: Savings Account no: 0123-4849-67 Cubao Aurora Branch
Banco de Oro Savings Account no: 003970019804 General Araneta, Cubao Branch
Banco de Oro - Savings Account no. 000160506123 SM Cubao Branch
PNB - Current Account no. 108410089566 SSS branch
Metrobank-Savings Account no. 265-3-26509112-2 e Rodriguez Branch
Allied Bank Savings Account no. 3160-12345-1 E Rodriguez Branch
Union Bank Savings Account no. 00-206-000940-1 Tektite Branch

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



FAMILY ONLINE NEWSMAGAZINE

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

Founder: Bo Sanchez

**Mercy Ministries Chairman
Hermie Morelos**

**Editor-in-Chief
Cynthia U. Santiago**

**Chief Photographer
Edmundo L. Santiago**

**Feast International
Region Head
Vic Español**

**Editorial Assistant
Laarni A. Uy**

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

**Media Ministries Head
Randy Borromeo**

**Contributors
The Feast Builders**

**Finance Officer
Rowena Cequeña**

**Publication Consultant
Chelle S. Crisanto**

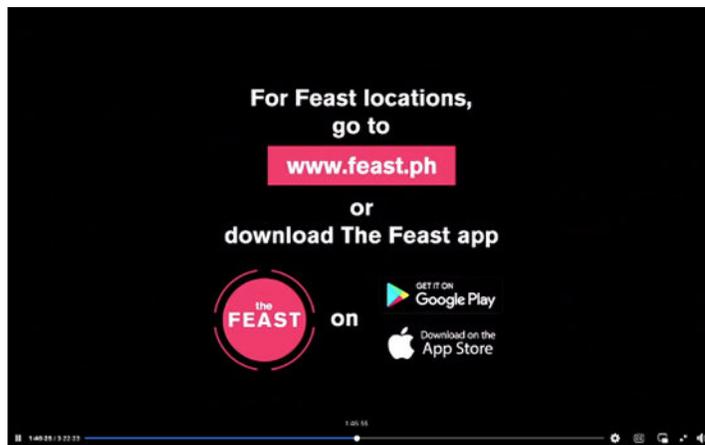
**Human Resources Manager
Erika Ventura**



Shepherd's Voice
Radio and TV Foundation Inc.



Multimedia Assistance Ministry



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

Go and make disciples of all men.

— Matthew 28:19

