



NEWSLETTER
August 13, 2023

Fight Soul Dementia

HERE's a Warning: When you forget God's persistent Love for you, you become ungrateful.

I compare ingratitude to a tiny drop of snake venom.

From just one bite, the poison of ingratitude spreads throughout the entire body until the person dies.

Because the moment you lose gratitude for God's love, your humility dies. Your peace dies. Your joy dies. Your love for God dies.

You become entitled. Cocky. You start tooting your own horn.

And soon, you think you don't need God.

You do your own thing apart from God.

How do you avoid all these?

How do you fight against soul dementia?

How do you always remember God's mercy and miracles in your life?

This is what you'll gain in today's Talk 2 of our series, *Dear Prodigals*, our study on the Book of *Deuteronomy*.

Have a transformational Feast!

May your dreams come true,

Bo Sanchez



WELCOME
to the continuation
of our Feast Series
Dear Prodigals
Talk 2: *Remember*



LETTERS

Breaking News: Transfiguration Happens

THE word *transfiguration*, as Google definitions say, means *a change of form or appearance*—especially a change that beautifies, glorifies, or makes more spiritual. Yes, such as the Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus, Breaking News to His apostles and the rest of us—the topic of last Sunday’s Gospel (Matthew 17:1-9).



Fr. Bob McConaghy took the opportunity to make a *change*. Instead of a homily, he gave, in his word, a *sermon* which he defined as a *speech or talk*—giving us breaking news: four ways to experience the Mass in a ‘Transfigured’ Way. How’s that? Read on, *page 3*.

Bro. Bo Sanchez also announces breaking news about *change*—in us—when we become *prodigal*, meaning spending money or resources recklessly. We suffer *Soul Dementia*—topic of Talk 2 of our Feast Talk series, *Dear Prodigals*, *page 1*.



Breaking News is there’s a way we can *change* to overcome our recklessness. Last Sunday, Bro. Didoy Lubaton and Bro. Audee Villaraza presented the way in Talk 1 of our series, *Come Home*. *Flashback* starts on *page 16*,



Breaking News last week was the Typhoon Egay and Typhoon Falcon onslaught. Our salute to The Feast Little Acts of Love led by Bro. Hermie Morelos (*extreme left*), chairman, and Bro. Marvin Tan, executive director, with members and volunteers promptly ministering to Feasters as well as non-Feasters in the affected provinces, *page 32*.

Changes happen. But we know only too well that as sure as Jesus’ Transfiguration happened, those changes will eventually lead to blessings. Not Breaking News. But Good News we will be grateful for forever.

All for God’s Glory,

Randy Borromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director





FLASHBACK!

AUGUST 6, 2023

Holy Mass



FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Sermon

FR. BOB McCONAGHY

on the Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

The Transfiguration

DURING the Lenten Season, at the 8:00 A.M. Mass, this was the Gospel. And I was the celebrant and I preached on this Gospel about the Transfiguration.

So, instead of repeating some of the ideas, some of the thoughts that I shared with you that day, I figured today I will not give you a homily.

Today, rather, I would give a *sermon* and a *sermon* is a *speech* or a *talk* on a subject. And the subject we're going to speak on is one that we never ever talk about but something we experience every week—the Mass.

A lot of times, I will hear people say, "I don't get anything out of the Mass."

Others I will hear, "Oh, the Mass was so boring."

If you've ever said that to yourself, or felt that way, welcome to the group!

Four Ways To Experience the Mass in a ‘Transfigured’ Way

We all keep the same law. Whether young, or rich, or poor, we all keep this law: the law of diminishing return. Any action, repeated many times over a long period of time, does not have the same return we have the first time. And that can happen with the Mass.

Now, first and foremost, we don’t come to Mass to get something out of it. We come to Mass to bring something to it. And so, today, I’m going to give you four quick ways to experience Mass in a little bit more transfigured way that you don’t get bored and that you’re able to bring something really to it.



1. Noticing

At the beginning of Mass, we’ll make you bring something to it. Now, when we come across the front here (at the altar), remember, when we come down the aisle in procession-- where you go to any church-- there’s the entrance procession. That’s really a pilgrimage. We go on a vacation to get away from home. On the other hand, we go on a pilgrimage to *find a home*. And that’s why the Church calls us a pilgrim people. This (world) is not our home. Heaven is our home. We’re only here for a short time and while we’re on our way to Heaven, why not care? So, as the procession is coming along, recognizing the pilgrim, and you see us pass through here in pilgrimage.

There is a saying that “*I shall pass this way but once. Any good I can do, therefore, let me do it now. For I shall not pass this way again.*”

When that happens, without anybody really checking you out, you are *Noticing* and just simply looking around. There are people today at Mass who are struggling. There are people at Mass today who might be broken, fearful, and worried and they came here to maybe get a bit of comfort. Look around, and see if you *notice* the face of someone who looks sad, worried, fearful, even bored.

And then, as we’re coming up to the altar say to Jesus, “Lord, I choose that woman, that guy, that girl, that boy, I adopt (the girl) during this entire Mass. I know what you need from me, I’ll pray for that. But I’m going to pray for her during this long Mass.”

Now, you go to Mass at least 60 times a year. That means 60 persons, and over 10 years, 600 persons that you’re going to pray for without *utang na loob* (anything in return). You will not see the result until the end of the pilgrimage --and when you arrive in Heaven. And as young as you might be right now, you might be praying for a total 6,000 persons, and Jesus might say, “You see all those people there? Let me show you exactly how your prayer during Mass made a difference in their life: *Noticing*.”

2. Listening

Peter just kept talking and talking and talking and finally for the first time, in Jesus' public ministry, the Father had to interrupt: "This is my beloved Son, Peter, stop talking about tents! Listen to Him."

Do you ever find that during the Liturgy of the Word, maybe it's from the book of Ezekiel, there are names there that you can't understand and after the first five sentences, you kind of understand yourself and say, "I wonder if that sale was on at SM today. It was up to 50% off. I wonder if I can get that or maybe I would get together with the Light Group afterwards, and maybe we can go over to the Mall of Asia..."

"The word of the Lord." "Thanks be to God."

Did that ever happen to you? Don't worry. It happens to us too. It happens to the priest.

Here is an antidote for that. This is what you do:

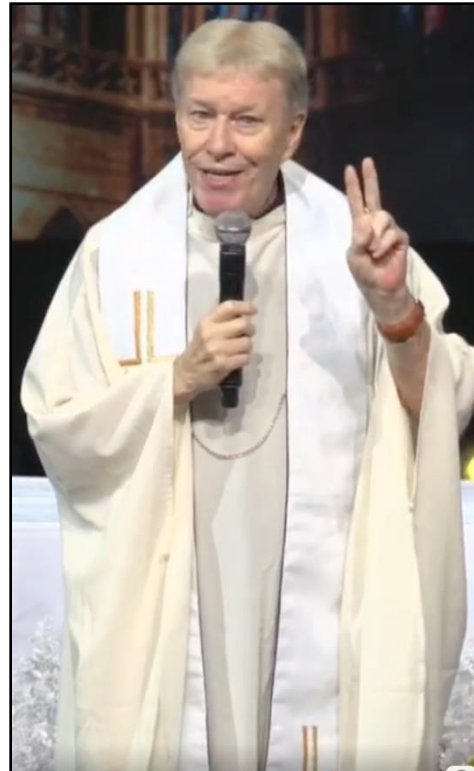
When the lector is coming up to the lectern at your church or here, you make an act of faith: "Lord, I'm making an act of faith that there is a word, a phrase, a sentence in one of these three Readings that's meant for nobody else in this huge crowd but me.

And then, say a prayer that you rarely say, "Surprise me."

We rarely say to God, "Surprise me." We kind of put Him in a nice, neat, little box of our own expectations. But Jesus is really present in His Word, and if you just say to Him, "Surprise me," I promise you, He's going to answer that prayer.

And you listen with new ears. And then maybe when you receive Communion, you can say to Him, "Lord, reveal the meaning of that sentence, word, phrase to me in a practical way this week."

And guess what? He will. So, that next Sunday and the following Sunday, you're going to listen with new ears.



3. Giving

We get into habit when it comes to giving especially when it comes to either The Feast or your parish church.

Usually, we know we don't take up the Offering during Mass-- it's usually during the after time. But we get into the habit of putting the same amount in, every week. And we take out P20 or P100, or P500 or P1,000-- whatever it is that you give as Love Offering. And we think it's based on the need of The Feast or the needs of the parish church.

The Love Offering is not because The Feast needs... It is, rather, your need to give back to God the first fruits of what you're thankful for during the week. And how do you find that out?

Tonight, right down three things for which you're grateful from God. Tomorrow night, write down three things you're grateful for-- but they have to be different from the night before...

So, then, on Saturday (6th day from last Sunday) you're going to have 18 things for which you are grateful to God. It is a good antidote for jealousy, by the way, or envy. Because if anybody saw your list, they would be envious of you. So, while meditating on those things for which you're thankful, you have a need to express that thanks to the Community so that The Feast, or your parish church, becomes the beneficiary of your need to give back to God.

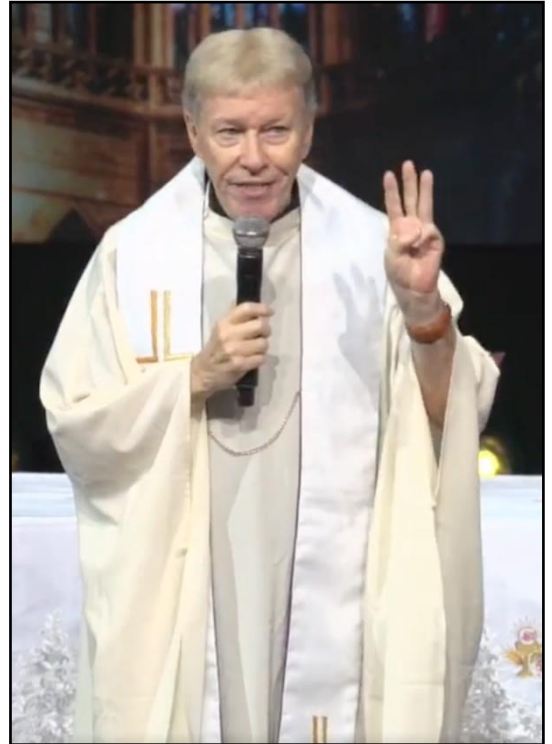
And one thing very important: the amount doesn't matter at all.

So now, the parish priests, The Feast, might get mad at me for saying that. But don't understand me too quickly.

In the Gospel, when Jesus saw people giving the Love Offering—He noticed the very rich people. Because it used to be coins only. And they have like a big horn that could rattle when you put the coins into there, “Oh, look how generous that guy. You see all the coins he put in there? Wow! He gave a big amount!”

But the poor widow put two coins-- nobody would hear them. And yet, gave more.

What does that teach us about the giving part of the Mass?



‘Give What You’ll Miss’

Whatever you give, miss it. Maybe you’re planning on getting a dozen donuts from Krispy Kreme--P350.

I’m not going to get the donuts. Rather, I’m grateful for those 18 things. I’m going to put that amount instead of my usual amount.

Or maybe you’re going to buy a purse today and you’ve been looking forward to saving up for it. Supposing you took that and put it in the Love Offering. You’d miss it, because you’re not giving from your surplus anymore.

Now, you’re giving from your need to buy the purse, to buy those donuts, to buy those tires, to buy a new car—and suddenly the amount becomes sacrificial.

That’s why we say, “Pray that our sacrifice be acceptable to God the Almighty Father...”

It’s more than symbolic.

So, don’t give the usual amount-- and the amount you give doesn’t matter as long as you miss what you give.



Reading I: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

⁹ I watched until thrones were set up, and the ancient of days sat down. His garment was radiant like snow, and the hair of his head like clean wool; his throne was flames of fire; its wheels had been set on fire.¹⁰ A river of fire rushed forth from his presence. Thousands upon thousands ministered to him, and ten thousand times hundreds of thousands attended before him. The trial began, and the books were opened.¹³ I watched, therefore, in the vision of the night, and behold, with the clouds of heaven, one like a son of man arrived, and he approached all the way to the ancient of days, and they presented him before him.¹⁴ The one like a Son of man received power and honor, and the kingdom, and all peoples, tribes, and languages will serve him. His power is an eternal power, which will not be taken away, and his kingdom, one which will not be corrupted.

4. Receiving

Usually, when we receive the Holy Communion, beautiful song is being sang.

And then we hear the commentator say, “Let’s have a quiet moment.”

You know, meditate on God’s Presence within us.

Well, as soon as you get back to your seat, even if the singing is going on, the first thing you do is pray. Pray for the first person that you have noticed and chosen.

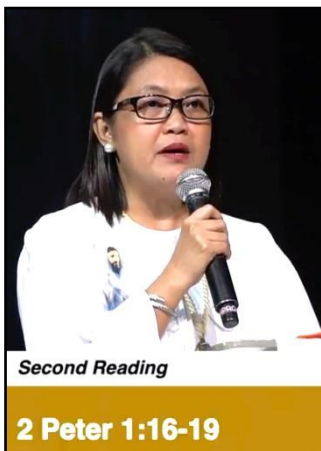
Jesus is a *Notice* and He notices that you pray for that person-- that sacrificial.

Then, pray for your needs: “I need to get a new job. I need to have the interview so I need the Holy Spirit to help me pass.” “I need to pray for my grandmother who’s in the hospital.”

Any number of needs that each of you has, each one is different. Pray.

But remember, prayer is “the expression of My will—My will be done, my Kingdom come.”

But that’s okay. It’s good to express your will and what you need to God. That’s prayer.



Reading II: 2 Peter 1:16-19

*Beloved:*¹⁶ It was not by following fanciful doctrines that we made known to you the power and presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were made eyewitnesses of his greatness.¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father, whose voice descended to him from the magnificent glory: “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to him.”¹⁸ We also heard this voice conveyed from heaven, when we were with him on the holy mountain.¹⁹ And so, we have an even firmer prophetic word, to which you would do well to listen, as to a light shining within a dark place, until the day dawns, and the daystar rises, in your hearts.

The Good News

Worship, which is what we do on Sunday, is different from prayer.

While prayer is saying, *This is what I need from You*, do you ever ask during that quiet time: *Lord, what do you need from me?* That's worship. *I told You my will, now what is Your will for me?*

“Well, first of all Lord, I kind of have to be like the Bread and the Wine. You are able to make them the risen b=Body of Christ. Even more powerful than the Transfiguration, and You give that to me Yourself. But the Bread and the Wine, Lord, they don't offer any obstacle to Your Presence.”

When our Lord is received in the Eucharist, it's different than “Where two or three are gathered in My name, there I am in your midst.”

Why? Because there we are with Him to pray.

But in worshiping, you're saying, “Lord, change me. I need to be changed and I cannot do it by myself. I get angry so easily with my family and I hurt them when I yell. Sometimes, I talk back to Mom and Mom does so much for me. I never really say, *'Hey mom, I appreciate what you do...'* Lord, give me a deeper sense of appreciation for my Mom...”

“Lord, You know how I am. You know how it is... At night, I go to social media and after, I go to those sites and I become addicted to them, and I'm powerless to change... and I try again and again and again and again. I feel so guilty. Lord, change me. I surrender to You. Help me to use my time better, and to realize when I'm watching pornography, I am watching somebody else's daughter, somebody else's son, and their family is probably destroyed by it...”

And you know what, at least 90% of people that you see on online pornography were abused as children.

“Lord, let me be aware... when I'm just ready to go there, remind me. Trigger in me when I talk to You about here and give me the grace to say, *'I don't want to participate in that abuse.'* Rather I'm going to say the Rosary now for those people --that their life becomes whole again.”

So, *Noticing, Listening, Giving, and Receiving.*

Because you may be the only Gospel that some people read this week. And if you notice, if you listen, if you give from your need, if you receive fully, then you will shine like Jesus at His Transfiguration.

You may be the only Gospel that some people read. And if you notice, listen, give, and receive, you will be for them Good News. Have a good week!





Everybody, give the Lord a big, big hand! Thank You, Jesus! Thank You, Lord!
Good Morning, Everybody! Welcome home to The Feast Bay Area! You are loved here. Just say to the persons around you, *Welcome Home!*

Thank You for showing up today. It always matters. Presence is so much premium. Those who are watching online, thank you so much for being one with us and we value your presence even online. Try to post some comments for us to get in touch with you as well.



Love Offering

DIDOY LUBATON: I want to invite you to give to our Family. I learned something new this week. I went to Mass last Wednesday.

Fr. Albert Garong mentioned in his Homily that he was listening to this leadership podcast.

And then he was shocked when a leader said, “Life is a contest of giving and the winner is the one who has given the most.”

Fr. Albert said, “What? Is this a thought leader talking about leadership and business and yet the concept and the execution of that is so Christian, so Catholic?”

Indeed, the secret to a happy, wealthy life is not how much you receive—it’s how much you have given. How you love, how you commit, how you give way, how patient you are. That’s just a good reminder for us.

And Fr. Bob reminded us earlier that we give not out of our excess but out of our need-- and that is church.

I want to celebrate with you and read Thanksgiving Prayers (written by givers on their Love Offering envelope. Yes, we really read what you write and we have a Ministry praying for your petitions as well.

Here are some Thanksgiving comments:

Beng: “Thank You, Lord, for the P1 million.”

Al: “Closed a deal on three residences sales. Thank You, Lord, for the unlimited blessings in sales, and rent, and real estate.”

Brenda: “Thank You, Lord, Josh passed the Interior Design licensure (exam); for keeping us safe during our visit in Bicol; for granting my request for a (needed) contract.”

Mark Rovi: “Lord, thank You for helping me through the Internship Program in my company where I’m one of the mentors. I pray that the learning will be used in serving others-- aligned with Your plans.”



For God's Glory

That's so good. I like what Mark said: "Use me, Lord, in serving others-- not for my glory but Your glory."

In the same way that you're giving, we pray (what you give may be) used for the mighty ways of God, in building The Feast, establishing our ministries, helping people, loving people. You really have a good heart-- giving to the Family through your Presence and through your giving.

Also, to those online, we recognize you, and thank you for your generous giving as well.








 <p><i>Ways to Give</i></p>	<p>Light of Jesus Family Mega Manila, Inc. 003970143807</p>	
 <p><i>Ways to Give</i></p>	<p>For GCash, Debit & Credit Card Giving visit:  GCash www.TheFeastPICCAM.com/Commit</p>	
 <p><i>Ways to Give</i></p>	<p>The Builder of the Light of Jesus Family Mega Manila Feast Bay Area, Inc. 000-4000-24846</p>	

Worship!
EXHORTATION



Worship!

EXHORTATION

TISHA ALYSSA CARO: We're going to sing a new song today. It's a beautiful song. It's a song that reminds us of what kind of Father our God is.

There's a story about a young man who took his inheritance from his father, and ran away from home. He made all the wrong choices until he had nothing left. Having nowhere else to go, he decided to make his way back to his father.

And when he was expecting to receive rejection or shaming, you know what? His father ran to him, welcoming him back home.

I don't know what the past few days or weeks have been like for you. Maybe you are someone who also made all the wrong choices. Or you're someone who has been gripped with shame for so long. Or you're someone who is distant from God and don't know how to begin to go back to Him.

But let me tell you this: Our God is a Father who runs not after the perfect people but after the broken, the sinful people. That's who He is.

God says in Chronicles: "If only my people whom I called by name will humble themselves and turn from their wicked ways and seek my face, I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and heal them."

I don't know about you, but I came here today in need of forgiveness, needing to return to Him.

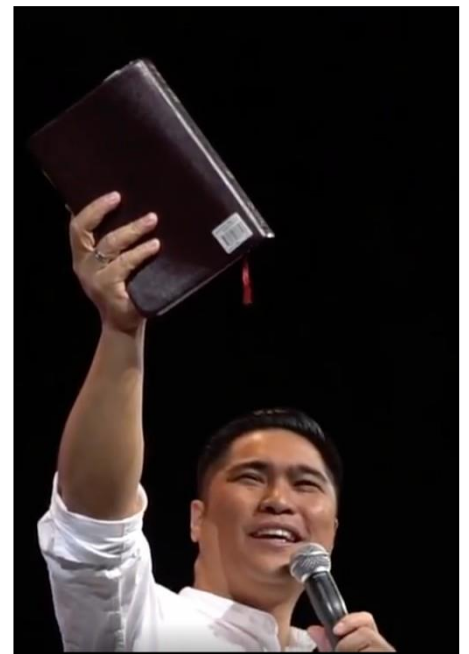
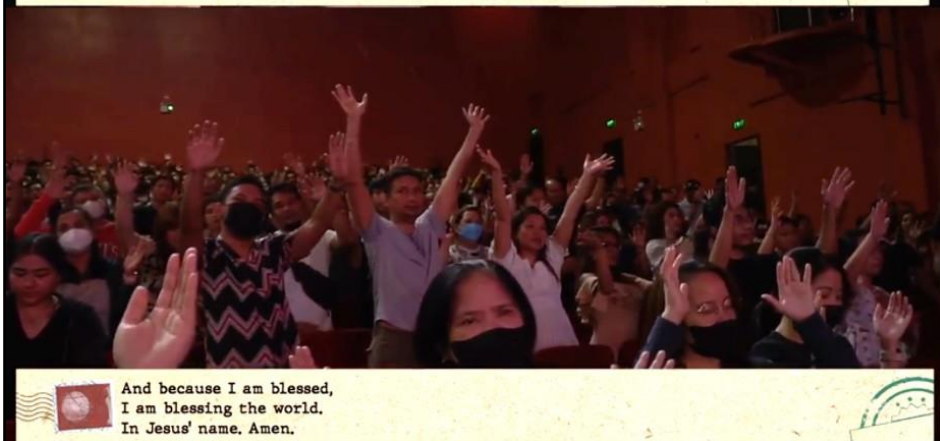
We're going to come into Worship. The thing is, there's no hiding anything from God. It's okay, because whatever it is you're hiding, He already knows and He loves you, anyway. So, with honest and humble heart, let's come before our Father, our heavenly and loving Father, and let's sing together.





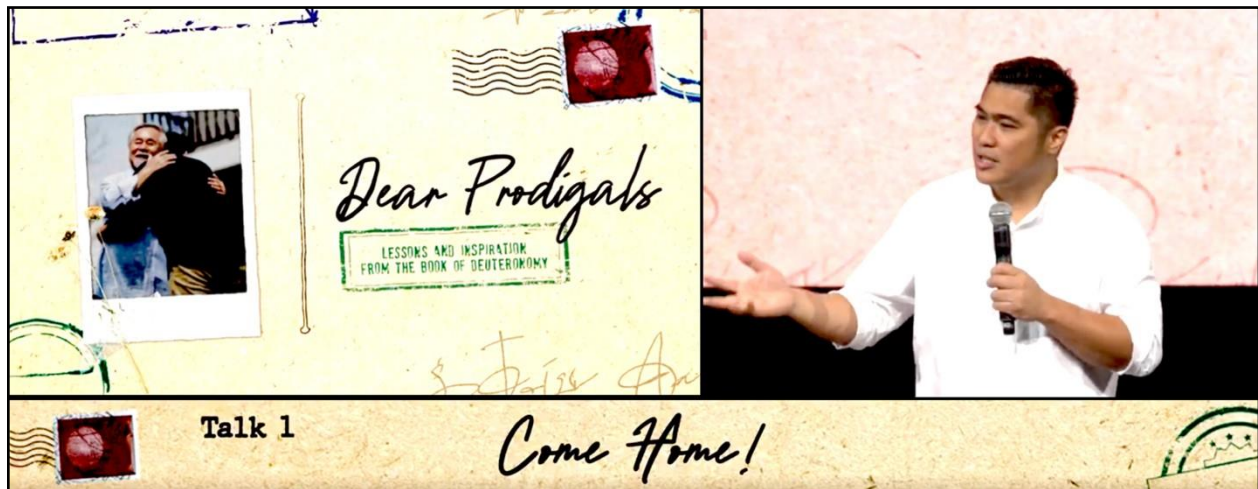
NOVENA TO GOD'S LOVE **DECLARATION OF ABUNDANCE**

Let's lift our hands and declare:



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

Talk



BRO. DR. DIDOY LUBATON: Who's ready to hear the Word of God today?

Let me declare it first. From Deuteronomy 6:4-5:

DEUT 6:
4-5 NIV

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

I invite you to make this prayer today. Let's close our eyes and just meditate on that Word: *Hear, oh Israel, the Lord our God. Our Lord is one. Love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. Lord, today, we open our heart, our life, our whole being to You. Speak to us. We want to listen. We're hearing You. And not just hearing You through words but really listening, receiving Your Word, changing us. We receive it, we thank You for it. And yes, we're obeying You. Thank You for welcoming us home today. You are welcoming us home again. Speak to us more. May Your Holy Spirit transform us through Your Word today. This is our prayer. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

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





Talk 1 *Come Home!*

Our one big message today is *Come home!*
We're starting a new series today and the title of our series is *Dear Prodigals*. We're talking about the whole book of *Deuteronomy* starting today. It's going to be a few weeks.

We have to appreciate as well that we're finishing through the series the *Torah*, the first five books (Pentateuch in Greek) of the Bible which are:

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy = **Torah**

We've been doing this for a year. It's been a year since we started the series and it's amazing. The *Torah* contains the 613 laws of God and today we're going to learn that *Torah* is not just laws. Because when we think of laws, we are like, "Hala, ayan na 'yung pulis. Hala, ayan na 'yung sundalo – Oh, my, here come the police, the soldiers."

We're thinking that if it's about laws, it's going to be hard, so restrictive. No. (The word *torah* in Hebrew means *teaching, direction, guidance, and law*). Today, when we think about the *Torah*, we're thinking about teaching.

Torah = Teaching

It's meant for us-- not just to follow what is the commandment. Because the teaching of the *Torah*, the 613 laws, don't necessarily apply to our situation now...

We're not to live life like the ancient people did before. But we're using the *Torah* up to now as a teaching.

We must read the first five books not as God's laws for all eternity but as God's teachings for all eternity.

The lessons are not to restrict us. The lessons are for us to have a full, beautiful, satisfying life. That's what the laws are. That's what the teachings are.

Again, the 613 laws in the *Torah* are written at a specific time and a specific place.

The 613 laws were written for a specific time and place.

Not Law...But Relationship

So, we have unpacked the *Torah*, we're now ending the Talk series with the book of *Deuteronomy*. Our question when we reflect on the teaching--not just on the laws-- to make it practical for you, the question we ask is, "Lord, how do you want me to love you today?"



"Lord, how do You want me
to love You today?"

By the way, if you came to The Feast thinking, "Lord, I need this, I need that..." It's okay-- especially if you're just starting your journey with the Lord. But we believe that God is not Sta. Claus.

One of the most important relationships that you will ever have is the relationship you have with God. And here in The Feast, as we're feasting on the Word, as we're feasting on our experience of meeting one another, we're feasting with the relationship we have with God the Father.

Deuteronomy literally means *Second Torah*. Because the *First Torah* are the laws written in *Exodus* at the start, and it's being mirrored now in *Deuteronomy*.

Because the Israelites to whom the *First Torah* was given were already dead.

(Flashback: A worldwide famine drove the Israelites, God's chosen people, to Egypt which earlier had stored food in preparation for the famine. The Israelites became slaves in Egypt until God sent Moses to set them free and bring them to Canaan, the land God promised to Abraham, the Israelites' patriarch. It takes only 11 days to travel from Egypt to Canaan. But because they'd been disobedient to God, the Israelites struggled through battles with tribes along their way. So, they wandered through the desert for 40 years—and this generation passed away.)

Now, there's a new generation born out of the desert, now about to enter the Promised Land. So, there's a need for a review, a reiteration of the *Torah*-- because there's a new audience, a new group listening. They are the ones who grew up in the desert and their mothers, fathers, uncles, aunts, they had passed on. Reviewing the teaching is very important because loving God in the desert may be different from loving God in the Promised Land.

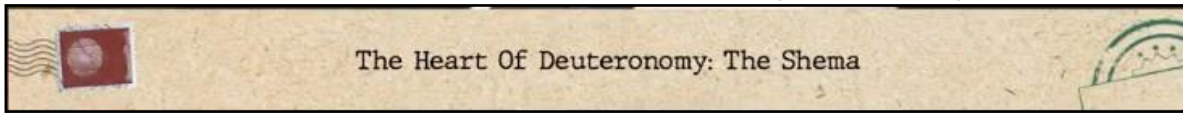
LOVING GOD IN THE DESERT MAY BE DIFFERENT FROM
LOVING GOD IN THE PROMISED LAND.



‘Hear, O Israel...’

Have you experienced that when you are in need and God gave you what you need, you become so in love with Him? You have a very good relationship with the Lord. But when everything is okay, and everything does go our way, sometimes, we forget that it all came from the Lord.

I’m setting this all up because it’s a whole series ahead of us about prodigals--and that’s you and me -- and God is welcoming us home again.



The heart of the book of *Deuteronomy* is called *Shema* and it means *hear*.

Shema = "Hear"

This is Moses’ opening speech in the whole book of *Deuteronomy* and it’s the essential message of the whole book:



"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

The *Shema* is very sacred to the Jews. They pray it at the start of the day, they pray it at the end of their day. They keep on singing it over and over and over again.

And I want to point at the first truth: that the *Shema* says *the Lord is one*.

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, **the Lord is one.** Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

I want to give you the context of this one. This is a revolutionary thing to say at their time and place because during that time, more than 3,000 years ago, Israel lived in a polytheistic universe-- the people had many gods. For example, in Egypt where they’re from, they worshipped Ra, Osiris, Isis. The Canaanites worshiped Baal, Asherah, Anat. Mesopotamians worshipped Marduk, Ashur, and Anu. And these major gods still have lesser gods, deities with them.

So, to say that *the Lord is one*, that is revolutionary! That’s different. That’s so new! Can even be laughable.

Our gods Today

Think of it in context: If there was Facebook at that time and you posted, “*The Lord is one,*” you would be cancelled. Nobody would believe you.

So, I want you to appreciate the text and get to know the context. When we say, *worshipping God alone*, it is not just a problem 3,000 years ago. I want to declare to you the truth: that yes, doesn’t the world still worship other gods? Don’t we?

If we search our heart, we might see there maybe gods that we’re worshipping—to whom we give our all—our time, energy, effort. We serve them. But they are not God.

For example, how many of you, when you wake up, the first thing you reach for is your phone? When I was younger, I was taught that the first thing I should reach for is my Bible. But now, I’m one with the bandwagons.

Sometimes, there must be a message. There must be an important thing... So, I’m one with you. And guys, have you ever experienced losing your phone? It’s like you’re going to have a heart attack. *Di ko pa nababayaran yun!*—I haven’t fully paid it yet!”

Or, you got out of the house and you left your phone. You feel so naked. You want to go home. That is just a phone—it gets old, you can change it. Even if it’s powerful, it has its limitations.

Recently, I gave a talk in our youth camp called Camp Kalye. I found out they had a rule there: For three days, the kids would not have phones. They surrendered their cell phones to the organizers. Wow! I challenge us adults: how far can we go without our phones? Can we admit these phones are getting so much of us?

We worship a lot of gods today. Sometimes, you post something on Instagram, Tiktok, Threads, and if you don’t get enough *likes* or *shares*, you feel so unloved. Sometimes, you’re waiting for people to react—and that will be your validation. We also worship power, popularity, possessions. And if we don’t get them, we grumble. We think life is not fair. Life is bad. We worship our addictions. We worship our distractions. Sometimes, on the mirror, we worship ourselves.



An Ongoing Relationship

Today, God's message for you is to *Come Home*. Come to Him just as you are. We need to pray the *Shema* more. And again, and again: *The Lord is one*.

We read in the Bible that Jesus gave *Shema* as a compass.

One day, a religious leader asked Jesus, "Out of the 613 laws of Moses, what is the most important one?"

They wanted Jesus to be trapped in a debate with them. They wanted Jesus to pick something that was controversial so that they could pin Him down. But He didn't. Instead, He said this, from Mark 12:29-30:



"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

The word *Shema* means *hear*. It doesn't necessarily mean that you receive the sound waves into your ear. It also means *listening*. *Iba yung narinig ko, iba 'yung napakinggan ko*.

We do not just listen once-- we do not just stop at listening. Listening, hearing, leads to *obeying*.

And I want to end by saying, "Please keep on listening because our relationship with God is an ongoing relationship." It is not a stale or a stagnant relationship. God is telling us something different to today, yesterday, and in the future. It's a relationship-- it's alive. It's not just a title. It's an ongoing relationship.

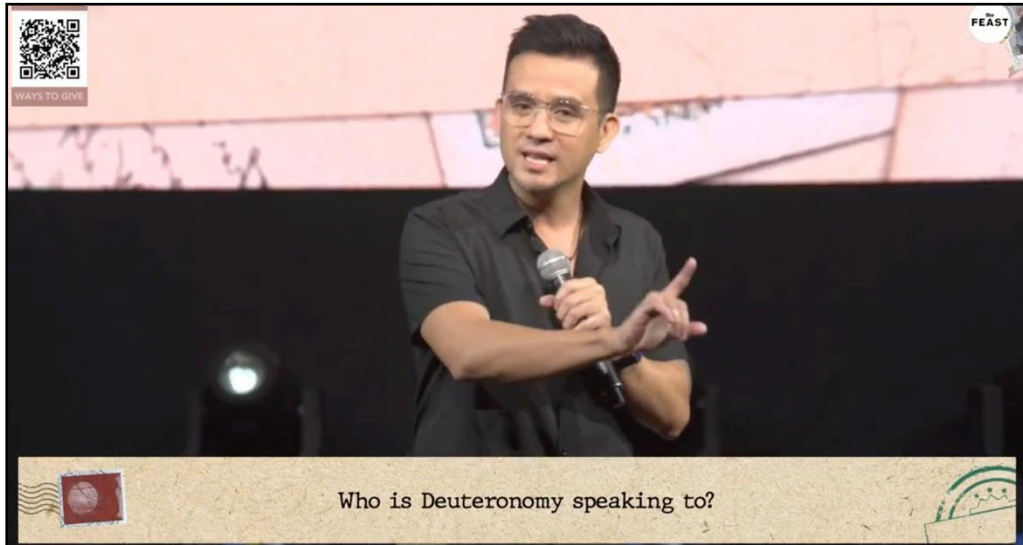
How is your relationship with God?

Today, we declare that *The Lord is one*... He is kind. He is gentle. He sees you, more than you think, as a son, a daughter, an heir to the Kingdom of God.

And on behalf of all the leaders of our Community today, I say, *Welcome Home!*

You're part of God's Family. It is an ongoing relationship.

To get the message going, let's give a big hand to the next preacher, Audee Villaraza!



BRO. AUDEE VILLARAZA: You know what I find amazing about *Deuteronomy*

is that it is said that the author who wrote this is the same author who wrote *Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers*. And the question I was asking as I was reading this is: Why in the world does he need to rewrite the whole thing again?

I mean, he talked about it already, he mentioned it in *Leviticus*--maybe all the lists and laws of God. Why the need to rewrite that book?

And I'm so glad I wasn't the one who did that. But if that was me, I would just put there, "Refer to Page 3 of *Leviticus* and see the fullness of God's laws."

Because that's how we are, right? We like short cuts.

I remember, in college, professors were like, "Give me a 5-page reflection on this book."

And I'm like, "Sure! No problem. Consider it done!"

1.5 spacing, Arial font, 14.5 size-- just to get it done.

Why in the world do you need to create and make a big deal again? Rewrite the whole thing. We found out from Didoy, that is because the author is talking now to a different market--it's a different audience.

If in the first time the audience were slaves that escaped from Egypt, now the target audience is the next generation of people far removed from slavery. These are people who have never experienced slavery itself.

That's why you kind of think that now it's a new audience. The author needs to remind them about God's laws.



God's Laws Are Eternal

One thing that you've got to learn is this: God's laws will forever be eternal. That you need to obey even though you're the new generation. It's generational. It's transferred from one generation to the next.

But here's the thing: God's set of laws -- in the way that you apply them—it's situational. Like it's different how you would apply it in your life in the season that you're in right now.

I'll give you an example. Didoy said that the first law is *Love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your soul*. That's the first commandment— and that's good.

But I realized this: When I entered Community, I was a 28-year-old guy. And the way that I did ministry was so different – in the sense that I attended all of these pastoral programs, left and right. I was so busy. I remember, every Monday, I would attend Music rehearsals where they would teach us Music lessons. Five of us in that class.

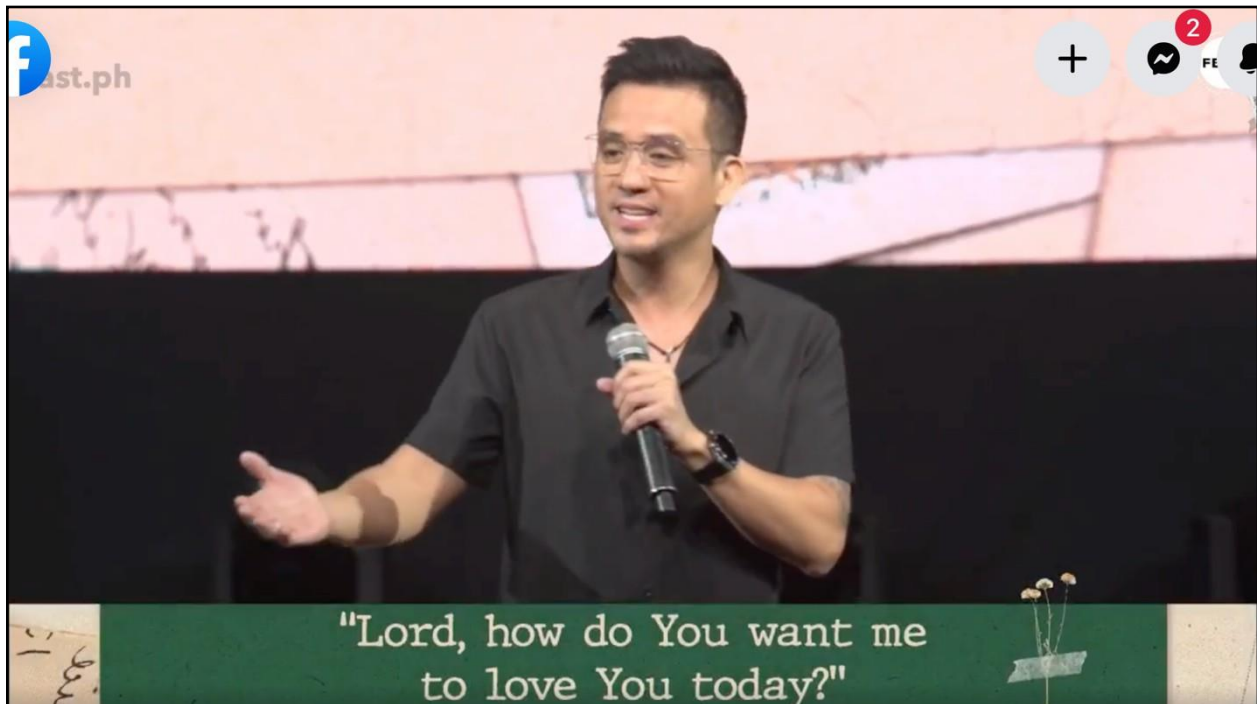
Every Monday in Cubao, Quezon City, on Chicago Street, at the Lighthouse (headquarters of the Light of Jesus Family). Every Monday at 7:00 p.m., we would have Simon Santos teach five of us—me, John Ben Rodriguez, Mike Viñas, Carlo Lorenzo, and Francis Yanga. We belonged in a group called the Pray Boys...

But little did Simon Santos know that five of us had a condition, a serious condition, called FCS. And this is a condition that happens to 1 out of 10 Filipinos. And you know what FCS means? Filipinos who Can't Sing. Globally, Filipinos are known to be talented singers but you have 1 out of 10 Filipinos who can't carry a tune. I mean, we could sing but the problem is we could never do harmony.

Imagine five guys singing on top of their lungs. But you know, my favorite part about that was the fellowship right after. We would end at around 10 p.m., 11 p.m., and we would always have fellowship over Chicharon Bulaklak, Sisig... The fellowship was food for the soul. But the Sisig was food for a stroke.

And then Thursdays, I would have to attend rehearsals for the service that Sunday. And then, I remember, in between days, I would, you now, go Feast hopping.

But then I got married. And then we had kids. Now, Ministry looks a bit different for me. Because now, I would have to choose the programs and the events that really required my presence-- because now I need to also take care of my family.



My point is this: The way that I showed my love for God when I was single is different from the way that I show my love for God now that I'm married, and I have kids. If before I would show my love for God by going to all these events. Now it's a bit different. The way I show my love for God is not by *going*, but by *staying* with my family. Do I feel guilty? No. Because I believe that God is very much present in my season right now as a married person, as a father, and as a husband, as He was also present in my time when I was single.

So, again you've got to ask this: "Lord, how do you want me to love you right now?"

Ask: Lord, how do you want me to love you in this season of my life? Today that I am married. Or that I'm still single. Or that I'm a student. Or that I'm a worker. Or that I'm a business owner.

But you know, this entire book of *Deuteronomy*, it kind of makes you confused. Because it seems like Moses is talking to the first generation of slaves-- but then you realize that that's not really the audience.

Four Audiences of *Deuteronomy*

I'll give you four different audiences of the book of *Deuteronomy*.

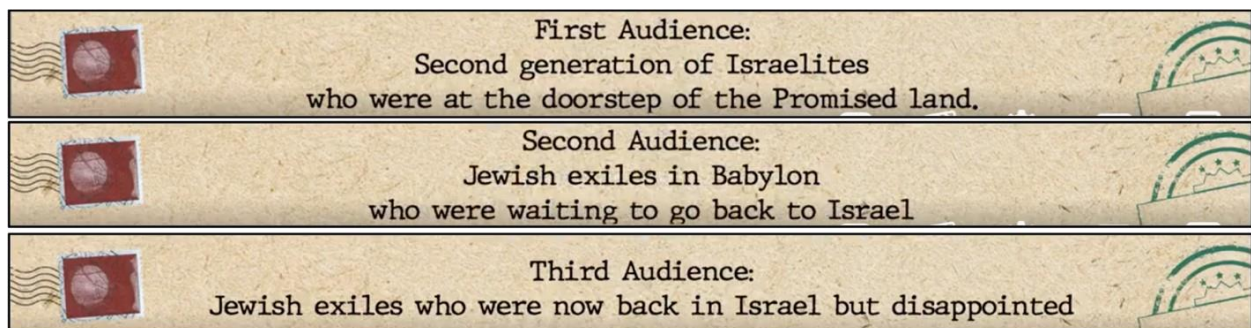
First, the free people of Israel who are at the doorstep of the Promised Land-- because they wanted to get into the Promised Land. So, they could be the audience.

But the second group of audience could be the Jewish exiles who, when Babylon conquered Jerusalem-- remember that this happened 900 years after the time of Moses-- that was the time that *Deuteronomy* was finally compiled right after Moses died. That could be also the audience because they wanted to get back to the Promised Land.

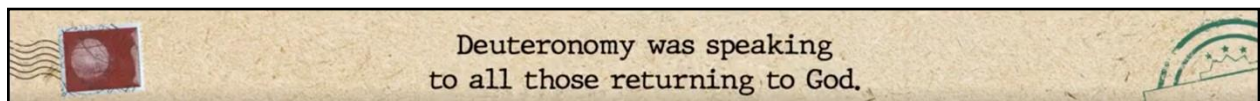
But then, another audience, the third audience, could also be the Jewish people who are now in Jerusalem because the reigning king, King Jairus, allowed them to come back there. But now they find Jerusalem in ruins and it's no longer their city.

They might had been asking, "Lord, is this the Promised Land that you want us to be in? Because it doesn't look like the Promised Land to us."

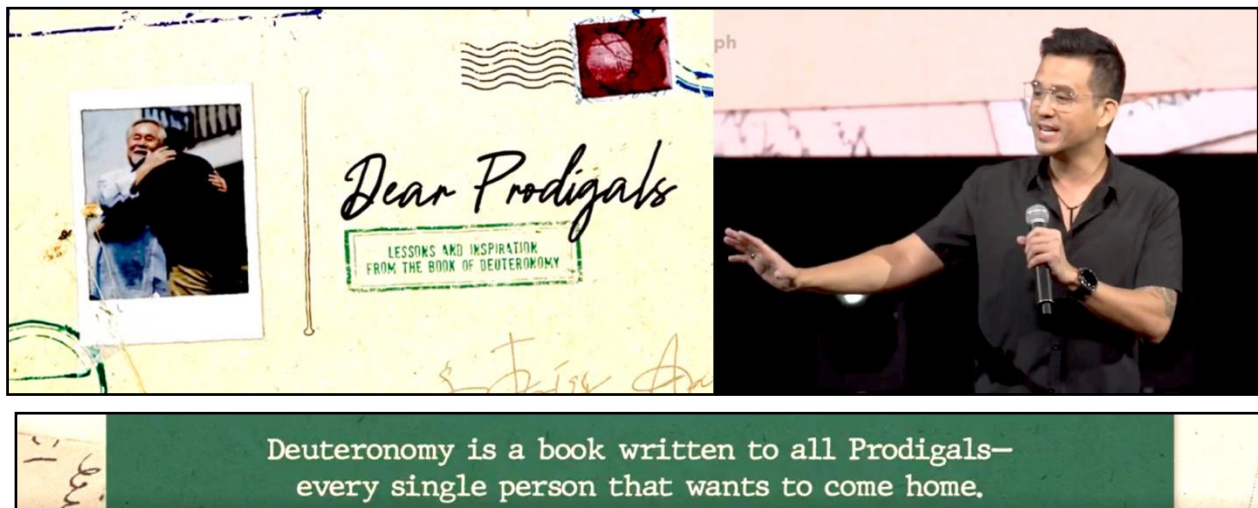
So, they could also be the audience.



But when you think about all these people who wanted to return back to the Lord, you can actually say that the audience of *Deuteronomy* is every person who wants to return back to God.



Guess what, isn't that you and me? That's all of us!



Deuteronomy is a book written to all Prodigals—
every single person that wants to come home.

How many of you, at any point in your life, have run away from the Lord? You've turned your back against God? You've disobeyed Him. You've forgotten Him?

That's all of us. So, in a way, the audience of *Deuteronomy* is every person who wants to make a way back to the Lord.

That's why the title of this Talk series is *Dear Prodigals*.

Can you turn to somebody beside you, and say, "Hello, Prodigal?"

Now you probably already know the *Parable of the Prodigal Son*. But I want to tell you the story again from a different perspective.

I know this has been preached by many preachers already: The story of a young man who goes to his father and asks for his share of the wealth early, and he finds himself in trouble.

But I want to share with you this conversation that they have, in Luke 15:11. To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them the story. The man has two sons...



¹² The younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now before you die.' So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

Two Reasons the Younger Son Leaves

Why does the son leave the house? I'll give you two reasons:

First Reason: Arrogance

Look at the way he says it: "I want my share of your estate now."

Isn't this a picture of all of us? "I want the blessing now, Lord. Not tomorrow. Now!"

And so, we take matters into our own hands-- because of our pride. Our arrogance gets to us and we think we can do it on our own. So, we define good and evil in our own terms.

Doesn't that remind you of somebody? Adam and Eve. They left the Garden of Eden because they wanted to do things on their own. They were arrogant.

Second Reason: Ignorance

The son didn't know any better.

Sometimes, we think that the grass is greener on the other side.

So, I try to think on my own -- but not thinking of what am I leaving behind. Maybe the thing I'm going through, maybe the thing that I want, maybe the thing that I'm dreaming of is maybe just an illusion—fooling me that what I have in my hands is not what God wants for me.

But then you reach that other side, and you realize the reason the Garden was growing better where you were is God was there. But now you're outside the Garden-- and because of your ignorance.

But then after you overcome arrogance and ignorance, you know what happens next? There's *acceptance*.

It says further in the story:

"When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have enough food to spare, and here I am dying of hunger!'"

You know, my prayer for you-- there's somebody here who's returning to the Lord just now-- I pray that God will make you come to your senses that you realize that there's no place better than the House of God.



God Is Our Natural Environment

There's arrogance, there's ignorance, and finally there's acceptance.

But I want to give you this little analogy...



What happens when you remove fish from water? It dies.

What happens when you remove a tree from the soil? It dies.

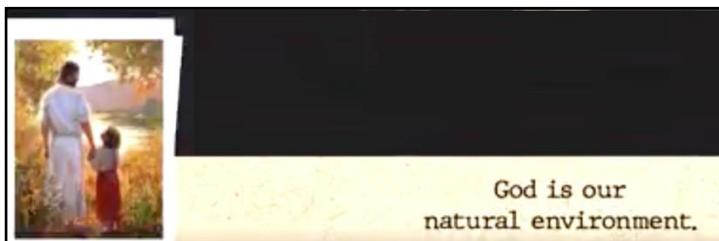


So, what do you think happens when you remove yourself from God? You die. Maybe not a physical death, but a spiritual death.

Have you ever felt that? When you're disconnected from God, there's a semblance of life, but it's not really living?

Because you've got no purpose.

God is our natural environment. The Bible says that in Him, we move, we live, and we exist.



We live for God, through Him. That's why when you disconnect yourself from the Father-- you get lost and you can't find yourself anywhere.

Come Back!

I share one last story.

A year ago, just after the Coronavirus Disease (COVID) lockdown was lifted, the Pandemic was still there but we managed to find ourselves in Boracay. My wife and I, our family, we took our kids, Ethan and Ellie, for a vacation because we needed it. We needed time away.

The thing with Boracay is it is a beautiful island. But the problem is that in Boracay, there are separate stations-- Station 1, Station 2, Station 3—one station separated from the other by one kilometer. We were staying in Station 2. So, when we needed to go to a restaurant in Station 3, had to walk for long kilometer.

My problem is that my son loves the beach but he hates sand.

I was like, “Son, you can’t have the beach if you don’t like the sand.”

Every single place we went to, we had to carry our two kids. So, my wife and I had to take turns carrying them. And by the end of the day-- first day-- we’re already tired. Nevertheless, it was a beautiful trip-- it was fun. But on our way home, the air-condition system at the airport wasn’t working. And then, we arrived in Manila and it felt like the entire Philippines was sizzling. So, to get to our condo, we took a taxi-- but alas, its air-con wasn’t working properly.

By this time, the two children, so tired, had already fallen asleep. So, imagine: Walking to our condo unit, we were carrying the two kids, we had luggage, we had bags. By the time we got to our unit, we just wanted to lie down. I was carrying Ethan and because I was rushing to get to our unit, I accidentally hit his head on the elevator door. And he cried non-stop. And by this time, my wife was already mad, I was also mad, the baby was also mad.

The joy we experienced in Boracay just vanished into thin air.

Days passed by and now, we have a little reflection on the incident which I’m sharing to all the parents who have young kids. I need you to realize this: That if you’re looking for a vacation with your family, the *real* vacation is not in a different place. It’s in your home. It’s at home!

At home, we can lie down, we can sleep. And we don’t have to be in traffic.

A lot of us tend to go outside our home—we look for love, we look for joy, we look for peace, for purpose. But then, we find out that actually, everything that we need is in God’s House. It’s been there since the very beginning!

I didn’t need to go into a relationship to find love. It’s been there ever since. You belong in God’s House. You need to come back if you’ve strayed away from the Lord.



And the Party Goes On!

And here's a beautiful breakthrough that God promises in Luke 15: 22-23:



LK 15:
22-23 NLT

"But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet.

²³ And kill the calf we have been fattening.

And he says this:

LK 15:
23-24 NLT

We must **celebrate with a feast,**²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party **began.**

This is how the story ends.

But wait... Actually, it's not the ending. Because it says, "*So the party began.*"

So, it's not an ending. It's a beginning. So, every time you come back to the House of the Lord, the Lord throws a celebration. He throws a feast.

Why?

Because it's a chance for you to begin again. For you to start again.

For you to have the opportunity to be with your Father again.

So, every time you come to The Feast, my goodness, God throws a party for all of you.

Come on, we're going to declare that this is the place, because God is here. And wherever you go—it doesn't have to be in a church setting—any place that you go to, when you declare that God is your King in that place, God sets up His Tabernacle. God sets up His altar. And that's the place where God dwells in you.

You don't need to look for God because God is in this place. He is waiting for you. Hallelujah!

**EACH FEAST IS A CELEBRATION
OF A NEW BEGINNING.**





MERCY MINISTRIES

*“The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake.”*

–Psalms 23:1-3

The FEAST LITTLE ACTS OF LOVE

Prompt Response to Typhoons Egay and Falcon



ON Wednesday, July 26, 2023, Typhoon Doksuri hit northern Philippines as Typhoon Egay, initially killing 5 persons and displacing nearly 27,000. The following days, floods caused by Typhoon Egay already affected 2 million persons, pushing over 300,000 to evacuate.

On Friday, July 28, 2023, Typhoon Khanun, or Typhoon Falcon as we know here, entered the Philippine area of responsibility at 11:00 p.m.

As of this writing, Typhoons Egay and Falcon, plus the enhanced Southwest Monsoon or Habagat, have recorded 29 dead, affected 805,621 families, and slammed the Agriculture industry an estimated P1.94 billion damage.

Valiantly amid the calamities is our Light of Jesus Family Disaster Recovery Ministry (LOJFDRM) now we call The Feast Little Acts of Love



From Ondoy... to Disaster Recovery Ministry

A powerful typhoon swirled the establishment of the Ministry.

On September 23, 2009, Typhoon Ketsana hit Palau, an island country in the Micronesia, in Oceania, western Pacific. The next day, the storm intensified, upgraded to a tropical storm, and striking the Philippines as Typhoon Ondoy on September 26, 2009.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo declared a state of calamity over Luzon, as landslides caused by Ondoy killed 86 persons. Records as of October 24, 2013, showed a total 464 died in the storm.

We well remember Typhoon Ondoy as it was at the onslaught of the calamity that our Light of Jesus Family Disaster Recovery Ministry (LOJFDRM) was established.

Our founder, Bro. Bo Sanchez, encouraged our Community leaders to form the group to help members in times of calamities.

At left, Bro. Bo with Bro. Marvin Tan, Ministry executive director, with supportive wife Sis. Liza Tan.

Early on, Bro. Bo assigned Bro. Roy Pasimio (*extreme left*) as the first head of the Ministry. He formed its organization, objectives, and policies. In time, Bro. Roy handled the LOJ International branches of The Feast, our faith gathering. So, Bro. Jorge Diomampo next handled the Ministry. Soon, Bro. Jorge retired, and so, Bro. Marvin took over.





The Light of Jesus Feast is a loving community where all members can feel safe, experience support, love, and care especially in times of crises and calamities.



With an unending cycle of generosity-- giving, sharing, saving lives—we now call our Ministry The Feast Little Acts of Love.

Today, a Board of Trustees leads our Ministry with Bro. Hermie Morelos (*right*) as chairman.



Other Board members are, *from extreme left*: Carl E. Fontanilla, Cesar Campos Cagalawan, Judd B. Balayan, Ervine J. Pangwi, with Marvin as executive director, and Jhun Que (*below left*) as operations director.



Yes, with little acts of love, the Ministry has promptly provided relief for villagers affected by calamities-- typhoons, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, fires, armed conflicts. From the time of Bro. Roy and Bro. Jorge, and up to present time, the Ministry has given millions of financial assistance and relief goods to countless members of our Light of Jesus Family, The Feasts, and even non-Feasters affected by the calamities.



Flashback: Feast Little Acts of Love for residents affected by the eruption of the Taal Volcano, January 2020.



Loving Dagupan

Badly hit by Typhoon Egay is the province of Dagupan.

An article by Gabriel L. Cardinoza in *The Manila Times* reports: “Strong winds and heavy rain spawned by Typhoon Egay blew off roofs, toppled trees and flooded many parts of Pangasinan, the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) here said on Wednesday (July 26, 2023) ...

No casualties were reported before noon Wednesday, but the PDRRMO said that 46 families, consisting of 159 individuals, were affected by the typhoon in Alaminos City and the towns of Mangatarem, Binmaley, Manaoag, Lingayen, Bani, Anda, and Calasiao.”



And happy to serve
are servants of
The Feast Little Acts
of Love Ministry.

Faith, Food, Fun!

Bro. Marvin shared this report on the faithful, prompt response of The Feast Dagupan Little Acts of Love for our brothers and sisters in Brgy. Malued in Dagupan City:

“We had a simple program. Our Feast Builder, Bro. Barz Lomibao (*right*) gave an inspirational message to give hope to the evacuees. Bro. Marlo and Sis. Jobelle led worship. The

Feast Dagupan Youth entertained them with dance numbers. Sis. Nica and Sis. KM facilitated the games. We sponsored the lunch of the evacuees. We also took time to connect with the evacuees by talking to them and praying for them.

“Indeed, it was a fun and blessed day.

“Praise God!

“We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all who helped and gave their donations.

We have helped 383 individuals. “



Loving Malolos

On July 31, 2023, an article by Zorayda Tecson through the Philippine News Agency reported: “A total of 341,242 families or 1,195,866 individuals in Region 3 (Central Luzon, which includes Bulacan—Malolos, Calumpit) were affected by the continuous rains brought by Typhoon Egay and the enhanced Southwest Monsoon... Based on the latest data from the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council-3 (RDRRMC-3) on Monday (July 31, 2023), of the total number, 8,862 families or 32,404 individuals are still staying in various evacuation centers in the region.” *At right, Sis Haidee Camua (white blouse) of Feast Malolos leads relief operations.*



Loving Calumpit



Feast Calumpit

Little Acts: Shopping for relief goods; Bro. Bong Rivas (*blue shirt*) checking the situation; standing by happy residents.

Bro. Bo: We reach out to all those affected by the recent calamities. From my family to yours, our entire Light of Jesus Feast Community, we want you know that we are fervently praying for you. We embrace you with God's comforting healing and love.





FAMILY

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 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> Telephone Numbers: 8725-9999/

Fax 725-1230

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 editorial services by the Light of Jesus Family Library 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

Reporter-Writer
Cybill P. Bayto

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

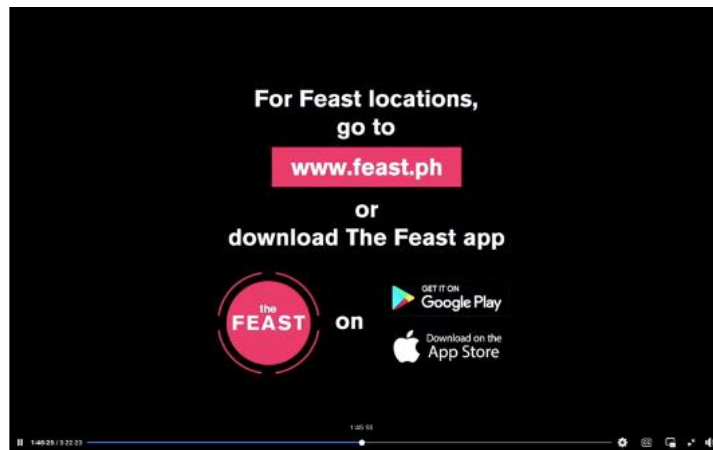
Media Ministries Head
Randy Borromeo

Contributors
The Feast Builders

Finance Officer
Rowena Cequeña

Publication Consultant
Chelle S. Crisanto

Human Resources Manager
Erika Ventura



For comments, article contributions, write or call us:
Email Address: lojlibrary2819@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

