

#### NEWSLETTER November 13, 2022

# The Ten Commandments Reveal God's Heart



FACE IT. Modern people don't like rules.

Just watch Hollywood. The films glamorize antiheroes—characters who on

a whim, break rules—but somehow have some goodness in their heart.

So, people don't like the Ten Commandments, either.

We don't want to be shackled by old-fashioned traditions.

But the Ten Commandments are valid today because *they show what God values*. *They reveal God's Heart*. They show what's important to Him—so that as His Partners, we can value what He values.

What does He value? God values you and your neighbor.

I pray that God empowers you today!

May your dreams come true,

Bo Sandy

**Bo Sanchez** 



#### **Present Times**

BECAUSE it's November, the month we remember our dear departed, talk topics are all about the end-times.

At The Feast last week, Fr. Bob McConaghy presented a vision of what happens at the moment of our death and it's not something to be afraid of, page 3.

So, we relax, just focus on the present times because, Fr. Bob added, whatever we do now will have a bearing on our end-time.

Our founder, Bro. Bo Sanchez, focuses on our present time as he introduces the Feast Talk this Sunday which is about the Ten Commandments. Ancient? Not really. Bro. Bo says they are valid today, *page 1*.

So, what should we be doing today, our present time? At last Sunday's Feast, Bro. Bo and Feast preacher Bro. Didoy Lubaton said we should Climb Up the Mountain, topic of Talk 7 of our ongoing series on the *Exodus*, pages 13-30.

Feast Bay Area preacher, Bro. Audee Villaraza, welcomed Feasters with words of encouragement: Praise God today-

even if you have problems. Bro. Audee quoted Bro. Edwin Marcelo who, launching his book, *The Miracle of Gratitude*, went back to past misfortunes—but at present, yes, he is grateful, page 11.

chairman, pages 31-38.

And if you want to be gratefully happy today, be present for Jesus Christ Cares for Cancer Foundation. Like, at the helm, from left: Bro. Hermie Morelos, LOJ Mercy Ministries chairman; Sis. Maritess Cordero, JCCFC board secretary; Bro. Alo Gelano,

> All Glory to God, **Randy Borromeo** Media Ministry **Executive Director**

















# **Holy Mass**





**FR. BOB McCONAGHY** on the Gospel: Luke 20:27-38 *The Resurrection and Marriage* 

#### Excerpts...

YOU'RE going to see that all the Gospels of the next four weeks until the first Sunday of Advent are about the end-times-- about what's going to happen after we leave here, and about our reward and our punishment. We will see this.

You know, the story is told of Enrico and Edward-- they were twin brothers.

They were in a motorcycle accident here in Manila.

They went before the gates of Heaven and there was St. Peter waiting for them.

He said, "Now, Edward, you just kind of started coming back to church and back to Mass. You were known to be lazy and you caroused a bit. And you drank one or two or three or four beers --and you would get drunk with your buddies. You may come into Heaven but we're going to give you this as your reward."

And St. Peter pointed out from the gate this 1990 Toyota Corolla, orange, all banged up, and He said, "Well, Edward, this is yours for all eternity."

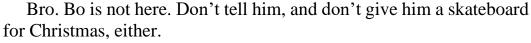
Edward looked at St. Peter and said, "This?" "Yes."

#### **Realities**

Then, St. Peter turned to Enrico: "Now, Enrico, on the other hand, you are a Eucharistic minister. You went to The Feast every Sunday. You visited people in the hospital. You were generous with the poor. For you, we have this brand-new Mercedes Benz. This is yours for all eternity."

Edward saw his brother started laughing hysterically, and Edward told him: "Okay, Enrico. Just because you got a Mercedes Benz and I got a Toyota, stop laughing at me."

Enrico said, "I'm not laughing at you. Look, here comes Bro. Bo on a skateboard!"



I'm going to talk about three realities that you and I will meet or face the moment we die. We're not going to hang around. We're going immediately before Jesus and experience love in a way we never had before. But God who is Love gave us a great gift— and we call it freedom.

And so, therefore, we could choose one of three realities. We can choose Heaven, we can choose Purgatory, and we can choose Hell. These are not places we are sent to against our will. This is what the Church teaches: they're choices.

For example, in the Catholic catechism of the Church, this is the way Hell is defined: Hell is a definitive state of self-separation from God -- by refusing to repent right up to the moment of death.

Except that St. Faustina— you know, her apparitions of Jesus Christ inspired the devotion to the Divine Mercy— said something very interesting. The Church proclaimed her a saint so, what she said must be consistent with what we teach.

She said this: "For the soul on its way to Perdition —on its way to Hell-- Jesus comes and enters into a dialogue with that soul. And if that soul shows the slightest movement towards sorrow and repentance, God's mercy takes care of the rest."

Why? Because mercy is always given when it's not deserved.

So, somebody might say, "Well, then, eat, drink, and be merry, and do anything we want -- because Jesus is going to try to talk us out of going to Hell. Ah-ah.

Mercy is given when we show the slightest movement toward sorrow. And what else?

Repentance. And sometimes, repentance can be very painful—if a person's whole life was about evil.

Then, becoming a saint is going to be purgatorial. That's why we're going to talk about Purgatory next.





#### What Is Purgatory?

Now, there was a saint of the Church who was known as kind of the Patron of Purgatory-St. Catherine of Genoa.

You're going to be shocked by what she said. She said, "As for Heaven, there are no gates there. No St. Peter standing outside the gates of Heaven."

Think about it: Why would St. Peter want to be outside of Heaven? People die every day... The Church never taught that. That's all part of the myth. That's all part of the fun that we can have talking about St. Peter.

This is what St. Catherine said: "There are no gates there. Anyone who wishes to enter, does so. Heaven is a choice offered in love... However, the Divine Presence is so pure and light-filled."

If you ever hear about anybody who had a near-death experience-- they talk about this beautiful light where they were enveloped in Jesus' Love, and there they have a life revealed, they say.

And so, St. Catherine said that basically, the soul that has but the slightest sin would rather throw itself into a thousand hells than appear before Jesus.

Tongue cannot express, nor the heart can understand Purgatory--which the soul willingly accepts as a mercy, the realization that something in (this soul) displeased God.

#### Reading I: 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14

It happened that seven brothers with their mother were arrested and tortured with whips and scourges by the king, to force them to eat pork in violation of God's law.

One of the brothers, speaking for the others, said: "What do you expect to achieve by questioning us? We are ready to die rather than transgress the laws of our ancestors." At the point of death he said: "You accursed fiend, you are depriving us of this present life, but the King of the world will raise us up to live again forever. It is for his laws that we are dying." After him the third suffered their cruel sport. He put out his tongue at once when told to do so, and bravely held out his hands, 11 as he spoke these noble words: "It was from Heaven that I received these; for the sake of his laws I disdain them; from him, I hope to receive them again." Even the king and his attendants marveled at the young man's courage because he regarded his sufferings as nothing. After he had died, they tortured and maltreated the fourth brother in the same way. When he was near death, he said, "It is my choice to die at the hands of men with the hope God gives of being raised up by him; but for you, there will be no resurrection to life."

#### **An Image of Purgatory**

Now, what is Purgatory like? The Church has never defined the sufferings either in Hell or in Purgatory. Artists have.

For example, when I was in the third grade, I remember it vividly: I was in the second row, second seat. Sister Ruth Dolores put up this big picture of Purgatory—and Purgatory was this lake of burning fire, and in that fire were hundreds of men, women, and children screaming out, in great suffering.

It was the beginning of November so they hadn't turned on the heat yet in the classrooms and I was going like this with my hands (rubbing hands together).

And I'll never forget what she said. It produced my image of Purgatory.

She said, "Robert, are your hands cold?"

I said, "Yes, Sister."

She said, "Well you better save some of it up-- you're going to need it when you go there!"

That was my image of Purgatory: my sins being burnt out.

But we're not going to be in our physical body in Purgatory. It's our soul that will be there. All our whole personality, yes. But you can't burn a soul. You can only burn a body.

So, when we talk about fire, we're talking about the Fire of God's Love.

It would be very much as if you went into a five-star hospital, dressed in ordinary clothes. And there was a beautiful dinner party-with orchestra in there, and everybody there knows you and loves you.

They would say, "Come on in. We're going to have a wonderful time! The food is wonderful. Wait till you hear the orchestra... we're dancing..."

And you would look at them, and you would see how they're dressed, and then you would look at yourself, and I think you would probably say, "Let me go change first."

That's what Purgatory is.

And so Purgatory is defined in the Catholic catechism of the Church as the final state of our purification before we enter into Heaven.

See, at the moment of our death, you and I are going to have the beatific vision-- there'll be no filters. Just Jesus. And you'll experience love as you've never experienced before. That's why you must never be frightened about what's going to happen at the moment of your death.





#### **Your Choice**

God not only loves—God *is* love. And therefore, God can do nothing but love you. The judgment? It's the one you make on yourself. And God must freely allow you to choose to go right into Heaven, to Purgatory, or to Hell-- they are *choices*.

How long are we going to be there? Well, there's no time in Eternity.

So, we can't do this in terms of time. But what we will go through there actually is *healing*— letting go of all of those things that we are unable to let go of, that we were attached to during life—money, pleasure, *chismis*— we have to let it all go.

#### Reading II: 2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5

Brothers and sisters: <sup>16</sup> May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting encouragement and good hope through his grace, <sup>17</sup> encourage your hearts and strengthen them in every good deed and word. <sup>1</sup>

Finally, brothers and sisters, pray for us, so that the word of the Lord may speed forward and be glorified, as it did among you,<sup>2</sup> and that we may be delivered from perverse and wicked people, for not all have faith.<sup>3</sup> But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one.

<sup>4</sup> We are confident of you in the Lord that what we instruct you, you are doing and will continue to do. <sup>5</sup> May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the endurance of Christ.



#### 'Be Not Afraid'

We say-- during this month particularly: "Pray for the souls in Purgatory."

You know what? They cannot pray for themselves. They rely on your prayers, and when you pray for them, they know it's you who is praying for them.

So, when you're praying the Rosary, for example, that's an opportunity to pray for 55 people you know who have died.

Most of us, me included, Bo included, are going to be in Purgatory. But I'm not scared of it because I know nobody's going to burn me-- like in that picture.

But in reality, God's Love is going to be drawing me to Him.

And St. Catherine said, "(Purgatory) is the resistance that we feel (as) God is drawing us into Heaven— when we know we're not ready yet."

So, when you pray for the souls in Purgatory, they know it's you who's praying for them. They can't pray for themselves but they can pray for you. They can. And when they get to Heaven, those prayers for you are even more powerful.

So, don't be frightened of dying, or what happens on the other side. You're going to experience love in a way you never thought possible-- because to choose

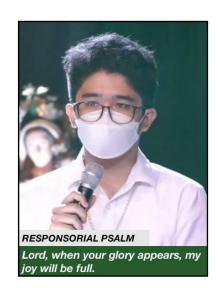
God, as St. Benedict said, is to become aware that you are known and loved beyond anything your imagination can conceive— known and loved before anyone thought of you, before anyone knew your name.

Remember, Jesus, after the Resurrection, cooked breakfast for His apostles. How can anyone be afraid of a God who would cook breakfast?

And finally, about the Purgatory, I would say this: The only thing—St. Faustina tells us—the only thing that exceeds the joy of the souls in Purgatory is the joy of the saints in Heaven.

And so, often Jesus said, "So, I say to you, be not afraid." Have a good week!





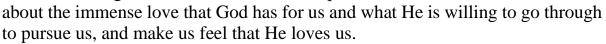
# Worship! **EXHORTATION**

**RYAN NABUS:** Good morning, Feast!

Are you excited that it's November already? That next month, guess what? So, greet the persons beside you "Merry Christmas!"

Be the first person to greet them.

You know, a while ago, we sang a new song from Feast Worship. Did you like that song? The title of that song is *No Greater Love* and it speaks



And you know, while we were singing that song and while we were studying that song, a question got stuck in my head. That question is, "Is there a way, or what could possibly be the best way to worship a God like Him?"

A God so big, a God who is so loving. Is there such a way, is there such a thing, is there such a response to a King like Him?

As we worship, as we come into the Presence of God, we invite Him into our heart and as He enters, He brings with Him love. He gives us joy. He brings with Him peace, mercy-- everything and anything that He wants to give us, even beyond the things that we've prayed for. He's that generous. Amen.

So, to the question, Could there be a way? Or what would be the best way to respond to that kind of love? I guess, the best way is just to receive it all. To receive everything. To receive God and everything He has for us. Amen.







# WELCOME HOME! 🔾

#### **AUDEE VILLARAZA:** Good morning, Friends!

May I give you just some words of encouragement? Because I do not know what you're going through. I'm sure there are some people who came here and you're struggling to find reasons to celebrate. I cannot see all the people at the back, but I can certainly see your disposition right now...



You know the word that Edwin Marcelo brought here onstage earlier, he quoted

1 Thessalonians 5:18: Give thanks in *all* circumstances. Even if you've got problems? Yes! In *all* circumstances. Whether you are experiencing some difficulty right now? Yes! In *all* circumstances.

I know some of you are thinking: "Bro. Audee, I've got a big problem."

Praise God. Why? Because He's bigger than your problem.

"But Bro. Audee, I've got a lot of debts!"

Praise God. Why? Because He's a provider. God will provide for all your needs.

"But Bro. Audee, right now, I've some illness."

Praise God. Why? Because He's a healer. God will restore you.

You've got a broken heart?

Praise God. Why? Because He's going to mend your heart.

You lost some things this year?

Praise God. Why? Because He will replace everything you lost with something better.

Praise God in all circumstances—in gladness, and in sadness, in defeat, and in victory.

# **Prayer of Abundance**



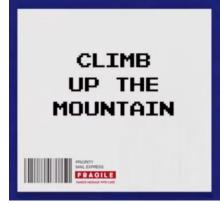


Today, I proclaim that I am God's beloved.
am God's servant. I am God's powerful champion.

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

Talk 7





**BO SANCHEZ:** Hi, Guys! By the time you are listening to this, I am already in Jakarta, Indonesia, and I am already preaching there. There is a Feast Conference there and 99.99% are all Indonesians.

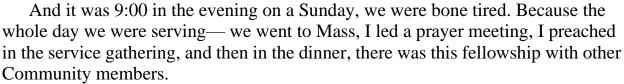
So, an amazing work of God is happening there.

Anyway, I just want to welcome you to Talk 7 of this series on Exodus. And I want to preach the message: *Come up to the mountain.* 

Before we explore Talk 7, I want to share a bit more personal with you.

Many moons ago, my wife Marowe and I were still a few years into our married life. It was a Sunday night.

I was driving home, and my wife was in the backseat with our two energizer buddies, all drained out, and they were sleeping on her lap.



Then, I heard a voice from the backseat. It was my wife and she asked a question. And the question was this: "Bo, sometimes, I just wish our life was a bit normal— like we didn't have all these responsibilities for other people?"

I didn't see that question coming. That question pinched my heart.

Because it was true: we were not living a normal life. I mean, what is normal?

Normal is working from Monday to Friday. And then you could be able to rest on Saturday—like have a picnic in the park. And then on Sunday stroll in the mall.





#### 'Crazy' Schedule

Because of ministry and also because of my personal businesses— weekends were the busiest days of the week. Like, Saturday, retreats, seminars... Sundays, preaching at The Feast.

At left, family time— at The Feast. And you know, it was really tough. I remember, it's like, okay, half of the time I would be able to bring them with me, half of the time, they would be left behind at home. About eight or nine times a year, I would travel.

And again, it's half-half— half the time, they're left behind, half the time I would bring them along with me. And because the kids were tiny, it would always be pandemonium.

Can you imagine me, pushing a cart with eight pieces of luggage— giant luggage— and pulling two bags...and my wife carrying a baby in her arms, and then our little boy running around and asking, "Are we there yet?"

Okay, so you get the picture.

Now, but here's something I need you to realize: Even if my schedule was crazy, from Monday to Friday, I would put top priority on family time—like dates with my wife, dates with my boys, family dinners, family trips.

But still, it's really a question. Marowe's question was really valid. She was basically asking, "May we focus on our family first?" You know, we're responsible for this, that person, that group.

So, I asked her this question: "Do you want me to stop serving?"

And I remember her answer. She said, "Don't mind me, Bo. This is just nguy-nguy. And, you know, after a day, I'll be okay."

I want you to know I have no hope of translating *nguy-nguy* in English. Okay? But the general idea is she was just verbalizing her emotions. And what I have learned is that when she's in that state, I would not try not to solve her *nguy-nguy*. Instead, I would wait for us to arrive home, and then I would listen to her, and then I would hug her — that's it.

And she said something else after that.



#### **Climbing Up the Mountain**

Marowe said, "You know, Bo, before I married you, you were already like this—serving God. This is who you are. And I knew this. I knew what I was getting into."

That, for me, was absolutely beautiful, and I said, "Yeah."

And she said this: "Even if our life is more difficult, I wouldn't want it any other way. We are family, we've embraced this more difficult, stressful life—intentionally."

In one sense, we deliberately *climbed up* the mountain.

And after almost 25 years of married life, I look back at our abnormal life with

profound gratitude. *Above*, date with Marowe: Inspirational podcast for couples dubbed *Dinner Dates with Bo and Marowe*.





My greatest rewards: 1. Both of my sons love to serve the Lord. Francis serving as member of Feast Worship Ministry; Bene sharing and now also servant-leader at The Feast Youth session.

- 2. I have an amazing marriage with my wife—because the best relationship is not with two persons looking at each other with googly eyes, but two persons facing one direction, walking towards one mission.
- 3. Plus, I have the greatest lifelong friends because I'm serving the Lord in Community.

If given a chance to relive my life, I would still embrace our more difficult life all over again.

With that sharing, I want you to listen to this powerful message, Talk 7 of our *Exodus* series. God bless you.

#### Something Burning—Again

**DIDOY LUBATON:** Thank you, Bro. Bo.

I want to highlight what he just said: Given a chance, he would do it again. He would embrace that difficult life. And he was mentioning the rewards. It's very encouraging to hear our founder saying that it is a difficult life.

Who's having a difficult time?

So, one big message today:

Climb Up the Mountain.

Yes, climb it up. There is effort. There is work. We're always thinking about what it feels like on top of the mountain— majestic view, a fantastic perspective...

But there's work there—climbing up the mountain.

And you need to make that decision today. It is a bit intimidating— "I'm not fit enough. I'm not good enough. It's hard."

But Bo summed it up: "If I'll do it again, I'll climb up the mountain.

Today, we'll unpack one of the most momentous events in Biblical history. And that is God making a covenant with Israel. This is the time that the covenant is taking place on top of the mountain called Mount Sinai.

Do you remember? Just a few weeks ago, we were able to preach that

Mount Sinai is not new to us. It's the same Mountain where Moses encountered God for the first time. Remember what was burning at that time?

The Burning Bush. That is where God revealed Himself.

Today, we're going to see something burning again.
There's something about that Mountain. It's the Mountain of God.

And we have three messages we will unpack for you today.



**DIDOY LUBATON** 



Message No. 1: God rescued you for a two-fold purpose.

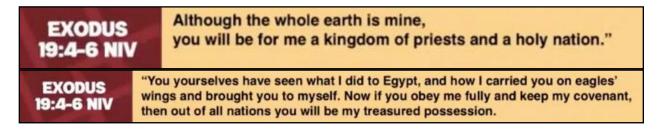
God rescued Israel, the people of God for a purpose. And yes, there was pain going through it.

Exodus says:

EXODUS 19:1-2 NIV "On the first day of the third month after the Israelites left Egypt—on that very day—they came to the Desert of Sinai. After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain."

Where were they? They were in front of the Mountain. And I could imagine, the Israelites were in front of the Mountain where they heard their leader Moses meet God. And it must be a special time— when God tells Moses He wanted a covenant with His people.

Covenant. Covenant is more than a contract. And you can think of it as a marriage between God and His people. And here it is:



What a beautiful covenant. What a beautiful invitation to a relationship—not just a contract but a covenant.



#### In the Garden and the Kingdom

God didn't rescue His people so that His people will live just ordinary life. There is a purpose for it. God rescued them for a two-fold purpose: To be in a relationship with Him; To be a kingdom full of God's images.

God rescued us— and *is* rescuing us. We are called by God— each one of us to live extraordinary life—not just a mundane life.

God has two purposes:

No.1: Be in a relationship with Him; No. 2 Kingdom full of God-images.

To be His representatives here on Earth. Kingdom of Priests.

A priest—especially in ancient culture—is the person who mediates between

God and Man. Imagine: God is calling not just Moses as the priest. God is calling the whole nation as priests to mediate between God and Man.

That is a beautiful two-fold purpose.

First, —hyperlink—going back to the previous book, *Genesis*: When God created mankind, He already made this purpose very clear. We are to dwell with God in the Garden.



Second, we are His co-rulers—stewards of His creation.

But we all know what happened. Sadly, mankind failed.

We all failed. But God didn't give up on us.

#### **God Teaches Through Testing**

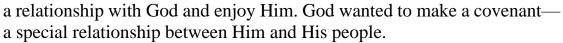
From Adam and Eve, He called Abraham and his family to be His representatives.

Do you remember those Feast talks that we just had?

Abraham and his family grew into a nation. But it won't be easy. The Israelites had been slaves for over 400 years. They didn't know how to rule. They didn't know how to represent God.

And what God does is His loving way to teach us. Sometimes, teaching us is best through testing.

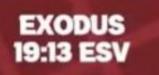
So, here it is: The first part of our two-fold purpose is to be really in



But the foundation of any relationship is always based on trust.

You will be in a relationship — a good, long-standing, loving relationship with trust. Without trust, there is no relationship. As we have seen, again and again, God called us, and God rescued us. But there are times we do not trust God.

Thus, God tested the Israelite nation from out of Egypt, through the wilderness—teaching the nation again, giving them another big test. He asked everybody to go up the Mountain. He gave instructions to Moses:



"When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain."

Sadly, a slight problem that we see here. Let's read further:

EXODUS 19:16-17 NLT On the morning of the third day, thunder roared and lightning flashed, and a dense cloud came down on the mountain. There was a long, loud blast from a ram's horn, and all the people trembled.

Instead of celebrating, they trembled.

EXODUS 19:16-17 NLT <sup>17</sup> Moses led them out from the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.



#### The People Did Not Climb the Mountain

So, did they climb the mountain? No. They did not even try. They remained at the foot of the Mountain. They were trembling. Why?

Here's what happened:

The whole Mountain was on fire. This time, God was not in a Burning Bush. He was on a Burning Mountain. That's scary. But that's actually the test.

God wants you to grow closer to Him. Moses was stepping on Holy Ground when he approached the



Burning Bush. It was just a bush. So, it was just Moses and God.

But here, the invitation was to climb an entire Mountain.

#### EXODUS 19:18 NLT

"All of Mount Sinai was covered with smoke because the Lord had descended on it in the form of fire. The smoke billowed into the sky like smoke from a brick kiln, and the whole mountain shook violently."

God expanded His Holy Ground— for all of us to come in. But we got terrified The nation got so afraid. They trembled. The thunder, the fire, the rumbling had a purpose. They were part of the test.

God wants us to be closer to Him, to enjoy Him, to enter Eden, and walk with Him in the Garden. But first, are we really willing to climb up the Mountain?

Are you willing to climb up the Mountain? And really go into that Mountain and see smoke, darkness, not so clear, there's thunder, there's rumbling, setting the place quaking.

God's people said at that time, "No, thank you."

They refused to go up. So, let's read further:

EXODUS 19:18-21 NIV "When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance and said to Moses, 'Speak to us yourself and we will listen.

EXODUS 19:18-21 NIV But do not have God speak to us or we will die.' Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.'

#### The Garden, The Temple, The Mountain

The answer to the test was already given: *Do not be afraid.* 

But what did the people decide to do?

This is one of the most depressing moments in the story.



EXODUS 19:18-21 NIV The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was."

It was an invitation, an expanded space for a Holy Ground—for everyone to come in. Not just Moses. Not just the elders. The entire Mountain was for everybody to come in.

And yes, there was thunder, there was lightning. They refused to go up. They refused to grow closer to God. They became afraid. Why?

Here's something that helps us understand this further. Mount Sinai is divided into three parts:

The foot of the mountain; the way up the mountain; and the fiery summit. This parallels the three parts of the Temple in Jerusalem and the Garden of Eden.

Because the Temple was structured like the Garden. The fiery summit of Mount Sinai parallels the Holy of Holies in the Temple and the Tree of Life in the Garden. They all have the same message.

The Israelites didn't want to climb up the Mountain. Moses climbed up on their behalf. A priest mediating between God and His people.

This derails the second part of the purpose God called us. The second part of the purpose is for Man to represent God. Instead of becoming a kingdom of priests, Israel became a kingdom *with* priests.

INSTEAD OF BECOMING A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS, ISRAEL BECAME A KINGDOM WITH PRIESTS.

The opportunity, the call— wasted. But this was not God's original plan. He wanted everyone to become priests. But not everybody wanted to climb up the Mountain. God wanted to recreate an entirely new people— an entire nation, new humans, new God-images, new representatives. But to do that, everyone had to climb up the Mountain.

And on top of God's Mountain, you will reach a meeting point with God. God's space and Man's space, God's heart and Man's heart altogether.



Message No. 2: God's fire will transform you.

Human behavior. I totally understand why the Israelites did not go up the Mountain. They remained at a distance. It was a burning mountain—with lightning, with thunder, setting the place quaking...

So, when we see something like that, we just want to stay where we are. We want to be comfortable. We don't dare go there—even if it means growing closer to God. We clearly have feelings like this now pop-culture. It happens.

Even in The Feast, the imagery is so clear.

When I invite people to The Feast, out of a hundred, majority would say, "No, no, I cannot go to your religious event. No. Masusunog ako diyan.— I'm gonna get burned there."

They feel that they are too sinful. Their image of God—they think that God will strike them dead. They think that God will judge them, and make them really feel so small.

But that is a lie. That is the lie of the devil.

The truth is God's Fire does not burn you. It burns what is destroying you.



GOD'S FIRE DOES NOT BURN YOU, IT BURNS WHAT IS DESTROYING YOU.



#### What Is God's Fire?

We embrace and go through the fire. Because the Fire of God is not meant to burn us out. It is meant to burn the impurities that are within us.

To destroy what is destroying us.

God is not here to destroy us. God is destroying what *is* destroying us. God's Fire is so loving. It burns our sins. It burns what is making us less human.

The Fire of God's Love will make us *better*— not *bitter*. The Fire of God *heals* us more than it *hurts* us.

What we think is good, may not be really good. So, let me backtrack a bit...

Remember the tree in *Genesis*? The Tree of Knowing Good and Bad? People take that story too literally, and ask, "What's so bad about eating a fruit?"

But it's symbolic. The Tree of Knowing Good and Bad represents Man telling God, "I don't trust You. I will define what is good and bad for myself. I don't need You because I am my own God."

So, when God called the people to climb up the Mountain, it was a reversal of the fall of mankind.

According to our limited wisdom, the fruit is sweet and the fire is



dangerous. But it's actually the other way around. So, we eat the fruit and avoid the fire.

But if we walk into the Fire, as God wants us to, we declare, "Lord, we trust You. We declare that You are our God. It is You, Lord, who called us to come up that Burning Mountain.

I will go through the Fire, and go through the Mountain, because it's You.

That is our response today.

But what is God's Fire, anyway? Let's discuss more on that.

#### Do Not Be Afraid

Let's see... Again, when God called people to climb up the Mountain, the behavior was, "No, we'll just stay here."

It's self-preservation. It's in the survival mode of the animal: "I'm not going to go where there's fire, where there's smoke, where there's danger, danger, danger, danger."

We will do anything

to survive. That is why we stay in our *comfort* zone and avoid the *courage* zone. Avoid what seems dangerous or unknown.

But here's Good News: The relationship with God is always dangerous. The World *is*. Life *is*.

The relationship with God is dangerous. And when I say that, it's *not just really dangerous*. It's because it's dangerous to our sinfulness and our selfishness.

God's Fire is God's Love.

We allow ourselves to be loved by God. The tender love, and also the tough love. God's Love purifies. God's Love is dangerous because it will transform us forever.

Here in The Feast, this is where God is cooking each one's heart through the Fire of His love. Cooking one's life, Cooking one's mind. Cooking one's body.

So that after The Feast, go out and feed. Go out and serve.

Go out and love people.

My dear friend, do not be afraid. Do not be afraid of God's fiery Love.

Embrace it. Climb up the Mountain. Walk into the Fire.

Let's shift away from the mindset that fire makes us afraid.

God is speaking to you today. The Fire of God is God's Love.

And God's Love will not harm you. God's Love will heal you. Go through the Fire.



#### Say 'Yes'

God spoke through Isaiah, coming from another part of the Bible. Recalling this scene, I want you to remember the Red Sea, the Burning Mountain that we are in. We're going to read this together and embrace this message, this call of God, this reassuring Word of God:



ISAIAH 43:1-2 NIV		"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;			
	NIAH -2 NIV	and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."			

My friend, brother, sister, will you still remain just in front of the Mountain? Will you remain in your comfort zone? Or will you say "Yes" to this invitation from God to climb up that Mountain? And yes, go through the Fire. For the reassurance is when you go through the Fire, you will not be burned. You will not be consumed. It is an invitation to His Love. It is a loving invitation. Will we say "Yes"? It's reassuring: "Please do not fear. I have called you by Name. You are mine now... My Fire will not burn you... It will bless you..."

In our church, our Feast gathering, we're climbing up the Mountain. We're going out of our comfort zone here (in PICC), to a new venue (the nearby Aliw Theater). We're going to climb up to that *unknown*, going to that space—it's newly renovated, more comfortable, more parking. But I can sense people are, "Uhhh—not sure... 8 a.m., too early; 11 a.m., lunchtime; 2 p.m., siesta time..."

It is God's loving invitation. That invitation is not for us to have an easy life. We embrace it— even the hardships. And it's part of God's Love. And the loving reminder is: "Even through the Fire, I am with you. Do not be afraid. The fires, the trials, the tribulations, the hurts, the limitations that you see— they will be nothing. They will be worth it. As an organization, as a church, as a family, as Feast Family, we are going through that Mountain. And that is where God will meet us. God has already been with us, actually, from the very start.

But to this invitation, my friends, I hope we say "Yes." Because, imagine: If we miss it, what's the alternative?

We could be feasting with God. We could be healing ourselves with Him. We could be experiencing joy like never before. We could be living in so much more abundance beyond our imaginings. If we walk through the fire.

Climb up that Mountain.



Here's Message No. 3: *God's Fire will make you His Light*. *Exodus* gives us an exciting glimpse of how the Fire of God transforms. On the seventh time, Moses went up to Mount Sinai to meet God— and *Exodus* says:

EXODUS 34:29 NLT "...he wasn't aware that his face had become radiant because he had spoken to the Lord."

Moses got a facial—more than a facial.

Because he had spoken to the Lord. When he met the Lord, he became a picture of a transformed, transfigured person.

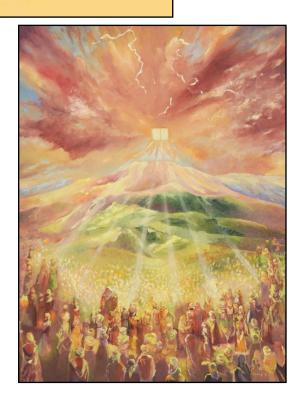
Imagine:

If every Israelite trusted God...

And they climbed up the fiery Mountain...

Every man, woman, child would have been glowing like Moses.

Imagine what it would have been like...

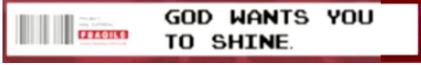




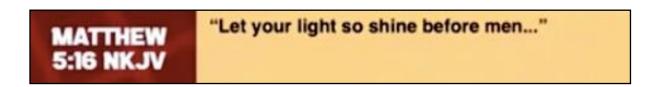
#### God's Call

For you and me, my friends, the call is still true today. God calls us to climb up that Mountain. Experience the Fire of His Love. Be transformed like never before.

And God calls you to shine.



Centuries later, Jesus said:



It still is true. *Shine*. That is His purpose for us.

But as we go through the story, it's only Moses who was shining. And when we go through further in the Bible, we will see that even Moses— even the best of us— even the priest of God, a holy man of God, who was able to climb up the Mountain, he eventually failed.

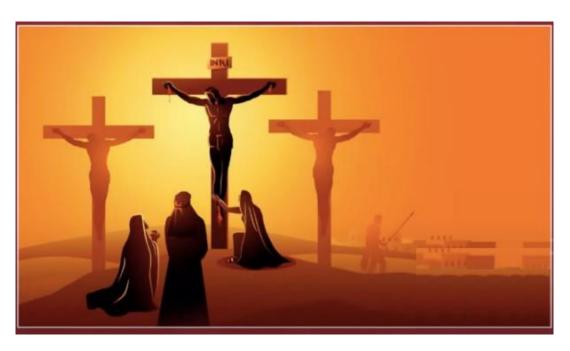
When we explore the next book, the book of *Numbers*, we will read about the failed life of Moses.

So, what does God do? Even if the priests—despite the great miracles, despite the great things—people are so stubborn.

Woo-hoo, talk to me, Didoy. Yes, just like you and me.

What does God do? Even if Moses failed, what does God do?

That is the God whom we serve. He never gives up on us.

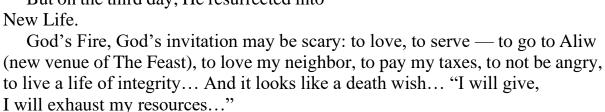


#### The Mountain of Jesus

Jesus climbed up the Mountain too. God provides us with the Perfect Priest. The Perfect Mediator. The One who is the God who became human. He lived like us—breathed, ate, got hurt. He became one like us.

His Name is Jesus. The Perfect Mediator. And on behalf of every human—past, present, and future, He climbed up the Mountain of Calvary. And there, He walked straight to death, into the Fire.

But on the third day, He resurrected into New Life.



But through the experience and the example of Jesus, going through the fire, especially the Fire of God, doesn't end with death. The same Resurrection Power that conquered the grave is with you and me—yesterday, today, and forever.

Jesus went beyond His own fears and went beyond His natural desire for self-preservation—for our sake. Jesus embraced the difficult life.





#### You Are Invited

I'm going to give that invitation to you now. You are comfortably sitting down in a beautiful environment, cool space, beautiful lights, handsome preacher:), and for those watching online, the Internet is steady, the weather is fine...

You're already thinking, "What am I going to eat, after The Feast? Where am I going to get my coffee? Amigos, friends, where are we going to meet?

Right this moment, I want you to focus, here with me— on behalf of God. I'm not saying I'm a priest—although we are called to be God's priests, a holy nation...

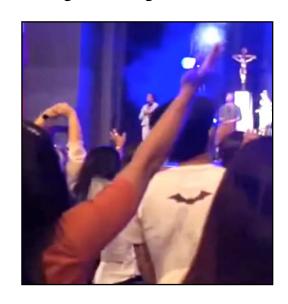
The invitation is: Are you willing to climb up the Mountain? You're not forced to live a hard life. But life is already hard. Might as well embrace it, right? You can have a hard life *without* God. Or have a hard life *with* God. Your choice.

Remember: the Fire leading up to that peak looks like a death wish. But it will not result in death. It will result in Eternal Life.

And that is not my invitation. I'm just echoing the invitation from the One who died and resurrected. And now rescuing us all—again, and again, and again.

So, I invite you, if you're willing to climb up that Mountain, your symbolic gesture is you will stand up, and you will stretch out your hand, and we're going to sing, and we're going to pray:

We're all deciding.
Lord, we embrace
this difficult life.
Lord, we will go
through the Fire.





#### Lord, We Climb Up Your Mountain!

Today, my dear friends, I invite you to trust in the great Love of God. If you trust Jesus, no matter what mountain, no matter what thunder, rumbling in your life, no matter how intimidating things can be, say: "I will follow You, Lord, I will say "Yes" to God."

New Life is now possible with us because of Jesus. For sinners like you and me, God's Love will not burn us. God's Love will bless us. Create a new us—a new Community, a new country, a new nation.

And each of us will come out with a shining face—not because the light is from us, but because we shine the Light of Jesus. And today, Jesus is offering His Resurrection Power, right here, right now.

And will you say "Yes" to joining Him in His Love, in His fiery Love?

With that same Resurrection Power, lift your voice. If this is you answering God's call, then come, let's climb up the Mountain. Let's make this a Holy of Holies where God's Presence meets the presence of man, and woman, and child.

And we will be transformed! Come, sing. Let's pray, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

With our outreached arms oh, Lord, we climb up Your Mountain. It is You who called us. We trust in You who called us. We walk through the Fire. We embrace the pain and live out Your purpose in us.

We are Yours — yesterday, today, and forever. Amen.



# JESUS CHRIST CARES for CANCER MINISTRY PART 2 'Come, for Everything Is Now Ready'

15 When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God." 16 Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. 17 At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' 18 "But they all alike began to make excuses…

—The Parable of the Great Banquet, Luke 14:15-24

DON'T we all sinners like to sit at the table where everything is ready? Where we don't have to wait and suffer in hunger?

Jesus made this possible through the Cross. He made everything ready for us and paid for our sins. All we have to do is repent and dine with Him at His table.

Jesus Christ Cares for Cancer (JCCFC) Foundation presents today the fruit of God's preparation at His table— the fruit of His faithfulness. That's why we are capable to serve others because God already served the food for us—Jesus, our Bread of Life.





#### 7th Anniversary Celebration

On October 8, 2022, Jesus Christ Cares for Cancer celebrated its 7th Anniversary over lunch with the Board of Directors and staff of the Ministry.

Bro. Hermie Morelos, chairman of our Light of Jesus Family Mercy Ministries, and also serving as vice chair of JCCFC, expressed deep gratitude to God for the Anniversary celebration: "Maraming salamat po sa pagtitipon na ito. Tinawag Mo kami upang magsilbi...— Thank You, Lord, for this gathering. Thank You for calling us to serve.

Above, officers and supporters, from left: Rowena Cequena, head, Finance Team; Dang Ramos, auditor; Gil Ramos, head, Admission and Aid Committee; Hermie Morelos, vice chairman; Marin Uy, director; Maritess Cordero, board secretary; Alo Gelano; chairman; Francis Ortega, representing his sister Claire Ortega-Reyes, auditor. Francis and Claire are children of JCCFC founder

> Rey Ortega (*left*). At right, joining the

celebration: Cybill Bayto (white shirt),

The Feast Family reporter-writer, and to her left: Jing Rangasajo, Mercy Ministries executive assistant.



#### **Blessings**

Indeed, there are so many blessings JCCFC thanks for. Here are our JCCFC milestones as of October 2022:

#### **Benefit Concerts**

At the request of our founder, Bro. Rey Ortega, Feast Builder and Preacher Bro. Alvin Barcelona staged a benefit concert for the Foundation dubbed *I'm Possible*.

Feast Builder and Preacher Bro. Adrian Panganiban and Bro. Michael Angelo Lobrin, inspirational speaker, supported the Concert which featured special guests Niki Yokingco, Cynthia Garcia, Darius Razon, Barcelona Academy, and Tahanan Ng Pagmamahal artists.

Proceeds from ticket sales and individual patrons financed JCCFC's cash aid program for some 50 beneficiaries in 2016.

The show was so successful that the group mounted *I'm Possible 2*, again led by Bro. Alvin Barcelona and Bro. Michael Angelo Lobrin.

The show featured actor Lance Raymundo, the Himaya Band, M3SY Singers, Jhyleanne Rington, Al Aguilar, among others.

The Concert helped fund the liver transplant of a baby.





#### **Lodging House for Cancer Patients**

For treatments, cancer patients from far-flung areas need to come and stay in Manila, usually at the Philippine General Hospital (PGH).

JCCFC teamed up with the Asilo de San Vicente de Paul Orphanage to provide a lodging house for them.



#### **General Assembly**

At the initiative of servant-leaders, JCCFC hosted a monthly get-together with beneficiaries and their families from April 2018 to February 2020. The general assembly was abruptly suspended when COVID-19 struck in March 2020.

The monthly gathering was organized to provide spiritual nourishment and uplift the morale of cancer patients and their immediate family



members. Some of the activities held and special guests invited to the monthly gathering are:

**Motivational talks.** Speakers included social media evangelist Fr. Luciano Felloni, Fr. Arlo Yap, SVD, Fr. Michael La Guardia, SDB, Bro. Arun Gogna, Bro. Obet Cabrillas, Bro. Gary Puno, celebrity psychiatrist Dr. Bernadeth Manalo, among others.

**Healing Mass** presided by Fr. Fernando Suarez.

**Counselling service and art therapy** with the Light of Jesus Pastoral Care Center volunteers.

**Tips on services** offered by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government agencies presented by Carewell Foundation.

**Free professional massage therapy** courtesy of HaGod Alternative Medicine and Learning Center under the helm of Omil Lameda.

**Free beauty makeover** by Mary Kay beauty specialists, with free cosmetics and personal care products from Malou Nohara.

**Kilay At Gupit** (eyebrow and hairstyling) courtesy of Gino Medina's Artista Salon hairdressers.

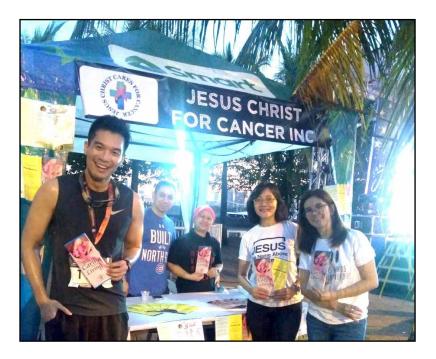
**Christmas concert** starring Bro. Adrian Panganiban, Man with a Million Voices Lucky Robles, Feast Mega Manila Youth leader Zildjian Pigao, and singing Supreme Court Judge Eugene Paras.

**Feast Video** featuring Bro. Alvin Barcelona, Bro. JC Libiran, and Bro. Dr. Didoy Lubaton.

Lunch was served and cash aid given to the patients after the main program.

#### **Charity Run**

AffiniTea, milk tea maker, sponsored a charity fun run dubbed It's All About Jesus the first time JCCFC was chosen as a beneficiary of a charity fun run. Special thanks to Feasters Mark Liu and Mark Villapa for organizing the event and spearheading the donation. Happy to serve, from left: Towpy Tejano, Feast Bay Area voiceover artist; Alo Gelano, JCCFC chairman; Betty Correos, beneficiary; Maritess Cordero, board secretary; Divine Grace Isidro, coordinator.





#### **Home Visits**

Prior to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID) Pandemic, JCCFC directors and coordinators traveled as far as Guagua, Pampanga, in the north to Sta. Rosa, Laguna, in the south to minister to cancer patients requesting financial assistance.

The home visits enabled the Mercy Ministry to properly assess the needs of the patients and their families.

#### **Online Remittance**

The global COVID Pandemic posed new challenges to JCCFC. The Foundation gives financial assistance to patients during its monthly general assemblies. But to follow Pandemic protocols, we had to put on hold the monthly assemblies. Moreover, beneficiaries whose family members lost their jobs needed help more than ever.

By God's grace, despite the difficulties, the cash aid program continued through online cash remittances. We have Sis. Divine Grace Isidro to thank for facilitating the bank transfer and GCash remittances every month since March 2020.

Sis. Divine also serves as a coordinator on top of her full-time job at the Catholic Filipino Academy.



#### **Admission and Aid Committee (AAC)**

To determine the proper service for the beneficiaries, JCCFC has formed the Admission and Aid Committee (AAC), headed by the husband-and-wife tandem of Bro. Gil and Sis. Dang Ramos. Bro. Gil created a set of criteria for evaluating the application of cancer patients in need of cash aid. Bro. Gil and Sis. Dang are active servant leaders of the Feast Bay Area Couples Ministry and they support other LOJ mercy ministries.



One of the biggest blessings JCCFC received is having hardworking, dedicated doctors as volunteers: Dr. Dyan Sabalvaro (*right*) and Dr. Adel Gonzales (*extreme right*). They go over medical records potential beneficiaries submit. They do so on top of their full-time jobs and family responsibilities. Their recommendation is a crucial element in the AAC's overall assessment.

#### **Prayer Partners**

JCCFC Prayer Partners are silent heroes. These intercessors, led by Dr. Lota Fragante, serve the Lord by praying and offering Holy Mass for specific cancer patients assigned to them. The time and energy they devote have yielded miracle healing for a number of beneficiaries.

We believe prayers are more important than the money we give them.











#### The Feast

Our beneficiaries first experienced the lively and life-changing Mass and Worship at the Feast Bay Area (FBA) afternoon session led by Bro. Alvin Barcelona and Bro. JC Libiran in 2018.

Some beneficiaries also took part in our Christmas fundraiser at the Feast Bay Area morning session with Bro. Bo Sanchez and Bro. Audie Villaraza in December 2019.

*Above*, at the Feast Bay Area Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) on December 22, 2019, during a fundraising campaign, *from right:* Feast Builder Bro. Audee Villaraza; JCCFC chairman Alo Gelano; Maritess Cordero, board secretary; and cancer patients.

#### **Feast Conference**

JCCFC has been a regular beneficiary of the Kerygma Conference, now named Feast Conference, the annual inspirational learning event of the Light of Jesus Family.

Here, during the turnover of portion of proceeds of the Conference on November 25, 2018, from left: Bro. Hermie Morelos, LOJ Mercy Ministries chairman; our founder, Bro. Bo Sanchez; Bro. Randy Borromeo,



head of the Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation which mounts the Conference; Bro. Arun Gogna, Feast Bay Area District head; and Bro. Alo Gelano, JCCFC chairman.



#### **Ready Now**

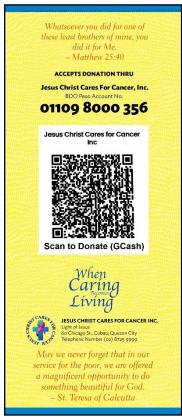
God started JCCFC. And so to Him, our praise and deepest gratitude forever.

JCCFC's success over the years would have not been possible without the dedication of the people who promptly answered God's call to love and care for the sick. We honor and thank our directors and other volunteers, those who support the Ministry, and donate generously. To them, we firmly assure the fulfillment of the promise in Philippians 1:6:

"I am certain that God, who began the good work in you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."

God fulfills the promise also for all those He has prepared His Banquet of Love:

Come, for everything is now ready.





### 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@kerygmafamily.com

Website: https://kerygmafamily.com Telephone Numbers: 8725-9999/

Fax 725-1230

## **Our Partner Beneficiaries**

#### **Jeremiah 33 Foundation**

is a shelter for girls particularly victims of sexual abuse.



#### **Grace To Be Born** is a

halfway home for pregnant women in crisis.





He Cares Mission provides shelter for street children.

Pag-asa ng Pamilya Foundation gives scholarships to poor 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. kerygmafamily.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 Shepherds

Voice Radio and Television Foundation 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 and mail (registered mail) to Shepherds Voice, 60 Chicago St., Cubao, Quezon City, Philippines 1109

4. Directly Deposit to Our Bank Accounts. Deposit to Shepherds Voice Account in any branch of these banks:

Account name: Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation

BPI: Savings Account no: 0123-4849-67 Cubao Aurora Branch

Banco de Oro Savings Account no: 3970019804 General Araneta, Cubao Branch

Banco de Oro - Savings Account no. 160506123 SM Cubao Branch

PNB - Current Account no. 371157500015 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@kerygmafamily.com or text us at (63) 922-828-9890/ (63) 998-968-4416 or Fax to (+632) 725-1230



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# Go and make disciples of all men.

— Matthew 28:19