

# WELCOME HOME

CONNECT WITH GOD. CONNECT WITH ONE ANOTHER.

## CAN YOU EXPLAIN YOUR BELIEFS?



FASTEN your seatbelts.

I promise you, today will be exciting. And explosive.

Because we're going to talk about "hot" beliefs that are distinctive to Catholics. To name a few of them: Images, Mary, and Purgatory.

Be honest. When non-Catholics hammer us about these beliefs using Bible verses, we either mumble or look for the exit door, or we get angry and scream, "That's what I believe, that's what my parents believed, and that's what my grandparents believed, and you can't do anything about it. So bug off!"

That isn't very wise. Let's change that. Today, let's learn why we believe what we believe. And together, let's dive more deeply into the profound treasures of our Catholic faith.

May your dreams come true,

**BO SANCHEZ**

## WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

WHEN I knelt down and proposed to my then girlfriend now my wife, I knew that I wasn't not just about to commit to marrying her, but I would be marrying into her family as well. And when she marries me, she'd also be marrying into my big family. That's part of the deal.

When you commit to God, you don't just get Him at your side, but the whole family is included into the package: Mama Mary, the Saints, and the whole Church. Having a personal relationship with God is beautiful. The intimacy with Him is irreplaceable, but God wants us to enjoy not just His love, but the love and blessing of His family.

To those who are seeking, to those who feel alone, to those who may have forgotten; may you remember that you have a big whole family with you in our Catholic faith and in our community.

Welcome home to the family!

Blessing and healing,

**DIDY LUBATON**



**TREASURES**  
**WHY REMAIN CATHOLIC?**  
**TALK 2: LEGACY**



The FEAST  
BAY AREA



A Catholic prayer  
community of the  
Light of Jesus Family.

**09 10 17**  
SUNDAY



### Today's Bible Readings

1st Reading: Ezk 33:7-9  
Psalm: Ps 95:1-9  
2nd Reading: Rm 13:8-10  
Gospel: Mt 18:15-20

## BLESSING BLOG

# YOUR BREAKING IS YOUR BLESSING

BY MARIE SALVE AS TOLD TO ANDREW SIA

**For a decade, I was constantly struggling to have a stable career in a foreign land and to work on my marriage with my husband who verbally abused me. I focused on all these trials only to find out eventually that God has been preparing me for His greater plans all along.**

### STRUGGLES IN A FOREIGN LAND

In 2008, I secretly married my husband beyond my parents' knowledge and consent. A year after, we moved to Australia, hoping to have a more stable life. Even back then, my relationship with him wasn't exactly smooth sailing as I expected it to be. But because I loved him and thought that he would change after our marriage, I continued on. In 2010, my parents found out that I was pregnant, and that was the only time when they knew about our marriage.

Working and studying at the same time in Australia was very challenging. Since I was in desperate need for a sponsor so that I could finally have a working visa, I endured working for two employers who both abused me and paid me way less than what is legal. And if my daily struggle at work wasn't enough, my husband barely supported me with my decisions. He constantly degraded and verbally abused me, but instead of fighting back, my focus was to be strong for my child and to shield him from his father. The thought of filing for divorce crossed my mind, but the expenses and the lack of family support to execute what I wanted kept me on check from doing so.

### A SILVER LINING -- OR SO I THOUGHT

In early 2015, a friend asked me to try out a new job. My training went well and things seemed to go smoothly. Eventually, we had to return to the Philippines as we waited for the result of our visa application. I told myself that finally, things were starting to fall into their right place. But I was wrong.

One day, I noticed my husband's mobile call log and saw an alarming pattern of calls from a certain "guy". Curiosity got the best of me given my husband's history of cheating, so I called the number and heard a woman's voice on the receiving end. Right then, I made decision that enough is enough. I confronted my ex about this and made him choose -- to admit that he was cheating or to leave us for good. Without thinking twice, he blurted out that he would just leave.



I thought I would be devastated and broken when he decided to leave, but to my surprise, I found myself not shedding even a single tear. Instead, all I felt was relief for me and for my son.

### TRUE BLESSING WAS UNFOLDED

In 2016, I learned about the Lovelife Retreat from Bro Bo's social media posts. I felt the urge, not because I was broken, but because I felt the need to work on my relationship with the Lord. It was my way of thanking Him for being with me throughout all my struggles and hardships.

Through the LLR, I had my greatest realizations: God allowed me to go through the difficult path only for me to recognize the lessons that He has wanted me to learn. God prepared my heart in advance so I could easily forgive my husband for all of his wrongdoings.

Things are now really doing well. My visa has finally been approved, and I will be migrating to Australia next month. By next year, I will be able to bring my son with me, and we'll be starting our renewed life for good. With a positive outlook in life, I can easily draw strength from God to face any problems head on, knowing that he will never leave my side.

## RECAP FROM LAST SUNDAY

Gospel Reading According to Matthew 16:21-27



**" WHEN WE TAKE OUR CROSS, WE BECOME MORE INTIMATELY CLOSE TO JESUS.**

- Fr. Titus Mananzan

Suffering is a mystery. Even Jesus questioned God for forsaking Him, but He accepted the cross and rose again on the third day.

Taking up our daily cross is not easy, but with Jesus on our side, we are assured to rise above it.

## SERIES: TREASURES

Talk 1: History

### Big Message: "Remain Connected to Jesus"

The Catholic Church has a rich history, which is rooted in and geared towards God's revelation of Himself through Christ.

As Catholics, we may have a lot of questions and concerns regarding our faith. We just have to remember and to keep in mind that our Church is centered on Jesus. For as long as we stay connected to Him, we will have a deeper understanding our faith.

## THANK YOU, LORD

...for empowering me to read the Bible regularly, and for finally being part of a light group. - Yen

...for the trip that I just had, for the deal I just closed, for bringing us to the Feast, for keeping my dad alive and healthy, and for the loyal household that my dad has. - Anonymous

...for giving me the opportunity to find a new employer. - Freddie

...dahil nag-3rd place po ako sa duathlon race na sinalihan ko. Thank you sa mga freelance jobs na natatanggap ko. - Anonymous

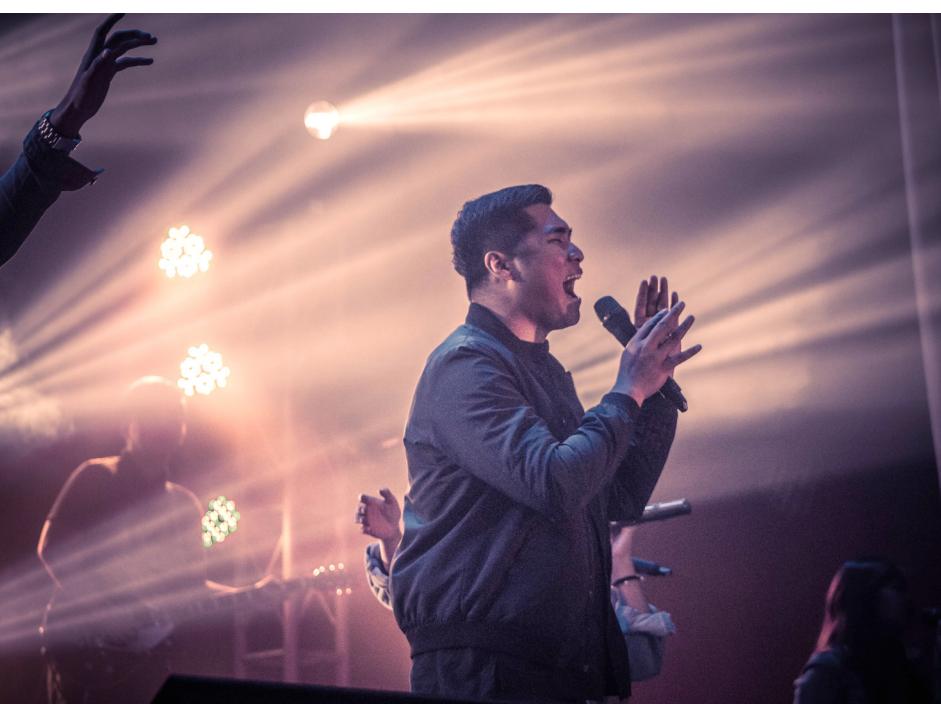
...for the fulfilling and successful outreach at Looc, Zambales. - Jhanna



▲ Bro Dean and Bro Dave welcome and pray over the first time attendees of Sync.



▲ Teacher Liza Pe of the Awesome Kids Ministry teaches the kids about the Word of God.



THE CHURCH IS AN ORGANIZATION FOUNDED BY JESUS CHRIST.

## GOD'S LOVE IS SCANDALOUS -- DESPITE OUR SINS AND FAILURES, HE HAS BIG PLANS FOR US!



TO HAVE A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR CATHOLIC FAITH, WE HAVE TO STAY CONNECTED WITH JESUS.

## ENHANCE YOUR FEAST BAY AREA EXPERIENCE

### HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW OUR BLESSED MOTHER?

- Mary was 12 years old when she was engaged to Joseph and 13 when she gave birth to Jesus.
- Her parents were an elderly couple, Saint Joachim and Saint Anne, although they are not mentioned in the Bible.
- Mary was a cousin of Elizabeth, wife of the priest Zechariah according to Luke.
- Mary's date of birth is unknown but it is celebrated every 8th of September.
- Historically, Hypollitus of Thebes claims that Mary lived for eleven years after the death of her Son Jesus and died in 41 CE.



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### LOVE OFFERING

Give to the Lord the glory He deserves! Bring your offering and come into His presence. Worship the Lord in all His holy splendor.  
*1 CHRONICLES 16:29*

#### TWO CONVENIENT WAYS TO GIVE AT THE FEAST



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### THE DOCTOR IS IN!

**Q** My boyfriend and I have been together for quite some time. I thought the early part of a relationship would be like the "honeymoon stage". However, we're usually busy with work and other commitments na makabuluhang naman po. But because of these, halos hindi na kami laging magkausap o magkasama. Okay lang po ba ang ganito? - Ms. Grace

**A** Hi Grace, It's okay to grow individually and make time for meaningful things. If this is that season of your lives -- to strive and build your career, network, finances, then so be it. But remember that you have a commitment in spending time with each other too. Here's a tip, decide together on a specific time in a week when you'd have a date regularly. Protect and persevere in sticking to it. My wife and I consider Mondays are our date day. When we committed to make quality time for each other on a regular basis, it brought our relationship on a whole different level. Pray for each other too. Praying together works wonders in your relationship. - Didoy



Send us your questions through [hello@fbasync.com](mailto:hello@fbasync.com).

**Lux Batch 21**  
A COUPLES' WEEKEND GETAWAY

September 22-23  
Carmelite Missionary Center  
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P5,500 per couple  
inclusive of food  
& accommodation

Register:  
[bit.ly/fbalux](http://bit.ly/fbalux)  
Gilbert - 0922-2684222  
Lorna - 0923-6107754

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**The FEAST**  
BAY AREA

#### THE FBA SYNC STAFF BOX

**Founder:** Bo Sanchez    **Builder:** Didoy Lubaton  
**Media Head:** Jaja Bolos    **Editor-in-Chief:** Rizal Pinlac  
**Associate Editors:** Tina Tindugan, Andrew Sia  
**Layout Artist:** Patty Bellido  
**Writers:** Angelo Merced, Sarah Regala  
**Photographers:** Anj Sipin, Anel Mendoza, JM Urizza, Dahlia Bagatsing