

# MY FAITH JOURNEY

OMAR, NEO ANTHONY, E.

Exodus 13:2 “Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether human or animal.”

Neo Anthony. The New Anthony. Anthony of Padua is a saint who lived a virtuous life. A Patron Saint for the recovery of the lost things. During my childhood, I was already a server of god. I started as an angel being chosen as the one who takes the veil of Mary from the encuentro and the one that brings the new born christ during Christmas eve twice. Early on my faith was already taught to me. “In Omnibus Amare et Servire”, To love and serve the lord. To consecrate my life to god as he gave it to me. When I became 8 years old, I was told to join the Ministry of Altar servers at our parish and I agreed. I was installed on June 23, 2019.

My faith grew as I aged, understanding God and saw how he moved. During June of 2023, I consider the test of my faith. My father is an OFW working in Saudi Arabia as an Interior Designer. His colleague told us he is absent without leave and was worried regarding his situation, during these times he also was not calling us therefore we do not have any information. He was missing for almost 2 weeks.

I questioned god, questioned his authority. I looked at the image of our Patron and asked him “Para saan pa maging santo ng mga nawawalang bagay kung hindi mo naman ibabalik yung tatay ko”. During these times, I couldn’t even look at the crucifix knowing that I despise god, I offered my life to him yet this is what I get.

That 2 weeks was hell for me, I don’t know where to go. I do not know who to ask for help. If god wouldn’t help me, who would. I begged, cried, prayed, attended every church gathering, asked every saint for intercession.

June 26, my prayer was answered. My dad is alive and well. The most expected news we were going to get is he is dead or worse no news of him yet he came back alive. He is alive! This test was to prove to me that God knows and listens. He would not abandon me, he sees me and knows my troubles.