

## Questions for Reflection:

1. Do I consider myself a religious or spiritual person? Why?
2. What factor/s (schedule, young children, distance, availability) stop me from acting quickly in my decision to serve God fully? What can I do to overcome them?
3. Am I being changed by my service to the Lord? How can I be more like Christ as I serve Him?
4. How can I serve more in The Feasts or in my CG?

### LOJC FEAST IN THE WEST REMINDERS:

**OCT 15.....FEASTS, 1:30 PM, HOLY ROSARY ELEM SCHOOL GYM**

**OCT 29 & 30.....LIVE-IN MARRIAGE DEEPENING RETREAT (MDR),  
LA CONSOLATA RETREAT HOUSE**

**OCT 29..... SINGLES/TABITHA RETREAT**

**NOV 5 & 19.....FEASTS, 1:30 PM, HOLY ROSARY ELEM SCHOOL GYM**

**DEC 3..... LOJC CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION, 5:00 PM,  
MISSISSAUGA VALLEY CC**

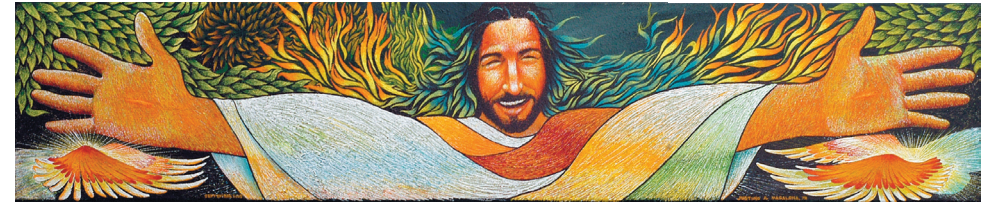
**DEC 17.....FEAST, 1:30 PM,HOLY ROSARY ELEM SCHOOL GYM**

## Prophecies: September 10, 2011

Be joyful always. Pray at all times. Be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants from you in your life in union with Christ Jesus. Do not restrain the Holy Spirit. Do not despise inspired messages. Put all things to the test, keep what is good, avoid every kind of evil.

And the God who gives peace will make you holy in every way and keep your whole being –spirit, soul and body, free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you will do it because He is faithful.

Seek first my Kingdom and I will grant the desires of your heart.



Series: **EXTREME MAKEOVER**

## Talk 2: Serve

Have you ever wondered why the Philippines despite being a religious country and the only Christian nation in Asia is so poor and corrupt? No doubt about it. We Filipinos are very religious. But here's the Key: There's a very big difference between religious maturity and spiritual maturity.

Religious maturity means you do your religious duties very well—you pray daily, you attend church, you read your Bible, etc.

Spiritual maturity is totally different: ***It means you love like Jesus.***

Spiritual mature people express their faith through action. God says that faith without action is dead (James 2:17). If your faith has no love, the Bible says we're like a noisy gong or a clanging bell (1 Corinthians 13:1).

Without love, all our religiosity is noise!

Do you want to know if you're spiritually mature?

### Look for these three signs:

Luke 1:38-40, 56

*"I am the Lord's servant," said Mary; "may it happen to me as you have said. And the angel left her."*

*Soon afterward Mary got ready and hurried off to a town in the hill country of Judea. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth.*

*Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.*

### 1. Service

After Mary gave her YES to God, the Bible says she "hurried off" to the hill country of Judea.

Why the hurry?

Real spiritual people know that there's this twilight zone between your decision and your action. Don't stay in this area for too long. It's dangerous.

If you delay your decision, before you know it, POOF! Your decision disappears forever.

Here's my advice: Once you make a decision, act immediately. Run through this twilight zone between decision and action. Don't sleep until you do something!

I've yet to meet a successful person who doesn't have a bias for action. Once a successful person makes a decision towards a goal, a flurry of activities takes place. The successful person acts immediately. When I read my emails, I usually answer right away those that needed to be acted upon. Even just a short note of appreciation. If I wait till I read all my emails, I will probably forget to act on them.

### **Teachings have varied results:**

I remember one time I gave a radical teaching about "Tithing." I asked the audience to decide and start giving to God and see how God will bless you!

After few weeks, a man approached me and told me that he responded to my challenge and started giving his tithes to the Lord and was blessed with a promotion and an increase.

I met another man who asked me some advice on how to get out of his financial mess. And during our conversation, he told me that he wanted to tithe to the Lord but keep on postponing it. I told him that is one of the reasons why he can not get out of his financial difficulties.

In the same way, the truly spiritual people I met have a bias for service. Why is this important?

Loving God is easy. He's perfect!

But loving another human being will be more difficult.

And it doesn't have to be a big service...

### **2. Simple**

Loving and serving God is easy. He is perfect!

But loving and serving another human being is more difficult. But if we really love God then we have to love and serve one another. And it does not have to be a big service.

Serve simply.

Mary served simply. She didn't conquer armies, vanquish nations, run organizations, or preach to millions. Instead, she went to Elizabeth to cook meals, mop floors, wash clothes, dry dishes, clean toilets...

When we reach Heaven, I bet we'll be surprised at how God will reward different people.

It may be possible that altar boys and church janitors may have a bigger mansion than the Pope.

Why do I believe in that?

Mother Mary is our model of simple service. She never served in a high-profile manner. She never had a title. She just served.

And that's what God would want you to do.

If you've experienced God's Love through the Feast, I invite you to volunteer immediately in a simple ministry. Give that love to others. Volunteer in our Greeters Ministry. Volunteer in our Children's Ministry. Volunteer in our Youth Ministry. Deepen your involvement in your Caring Groups by helping your CG Heads. Ask him or her how you can serve.

### **3. Sacrifice**

#### **Sacrificial service.**

Luke 1:39-40, 56

*Soon afterward Mary got ready and hurried off to a town in the hill country of Judea. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth.*

*Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.*

Please note, Mary had no bus or car. Goodness, Mary didn't even have a skateboard.

While already pregnant, this 14-year old girl trekked for 4 days, under the scorching heat of the sun, through the Judean desert—crawling with wild beasts and thieves. (Remember the story of the Good Samaritan? And how thieves beat up the guy? It was pretty common among travelers.)

#### **That was sacrifice.**

#### **Spiritual people are sacrificial people.**

She had all the excuses in the world not to go. She could have said, "Lord, I'm pregnant myself. I have morning sickness. I don't like the smell of garlic. How can I serve my cousin Elizabeth?"

But she didn't think of her own discomfort. Or her own pains. Her own issues. Her own needs.

She went out and served someone else.

This is real Christianity.

Christianity isn't about going to Heaven. Christianity is about bringing Heaven down to the people on earth, especially for those who are going through Hell today.

And sacrifice starts in our families.

#### **Sacrifice In Your Family**

There is a saying that Love begins at home. Sacrifice too begins at home.

Serving others is a privilege. The reward of service is the fact that we have been given the chance to serve others. After submitting ourselves to the will of God, our love for Him is overflowing that we cannot help but go out and Serve His people. Service is another of God's many ways in changing us into the likeness of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a way towards an extreme makeover, making us more beautiful in His sight than ever! Let's us serve Him and His people then sincerely, from the purity of our heart and intention!

May God bless all of you!