

## Questions for Reflection:

1. Do I find it difficult to submit to God's will and plan for my life? Why?
2. What areas of my life have I fully submitted to God? What are those areas that I have not?
3. What concrete steps am I willing to commit to so I can surrender these areas to the Lord fully?

### LOJC FEAST IN THE WEST REMINDERS:

SEPT 17..... LOJC 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY, MISSISSAUGA VALLEY CC,  
5:00 PM, HOSTED BY WEST FEAST

OCT 1 & 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

### Prophecies: August 6, 2011

Show the gratitude to everyone, the Lord is coming soon. Don't worry about anything but in all your prayers; ask God for what you need. Always ask him with a thankful heart and God's peace which is far beyond human understanding will keep your hearts and mind safe in union with Jesus Christ.

Fill your mind with those things that are good. Pray for things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely and honorable. Put in practice what you learned and God will give us peace.

Taken from Zephaniah. Yahweh has lifted your sentence and has driven your enemies away. Yahweh the king is with you. Do not fear any misfortune, do not be afraid or let your hands tremble for Yahweh your God is within you.

If today you hear my voice, harden not your heart my children. Harden not your heart for I delight in you and you will see I will give you the fullness of life you are looking for. The meaning and the purpose of your life I will reveal to you. Again my children, harden not your heart.

### August 20, 2011

I just want to confirm the Lord is really appreciative of our praise and worship. He is smiling on us.

Brothers and sisters, the Lord's unfailing love and mercy still continue, fresh as the morning sunrise. The Lord is all we have so in Him we put our hope. The Lord is good to anyone who trusts in Him so it's best for us to wait in patience, to wait for him to save us.

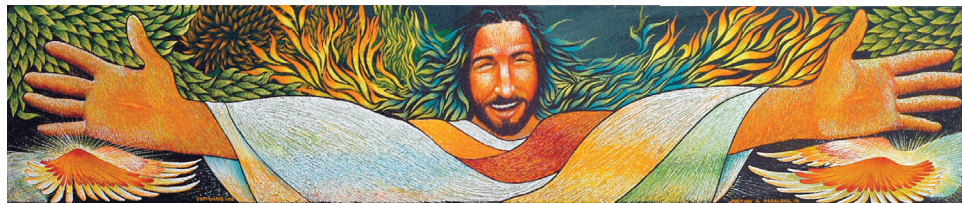
My children know this; no matter how lonely life gets, you will never be alone. That's a total and complete impossibility because I will not leave or abandon you. I am sticking around no matter what happens, live with it, and know that I am here.

The Lord is telling us how much He loves us. He loves us so much that He cannot bear the sight of losing us, losing any one of us.

# The Feast Bulletin

www.lojcanada.com

September 10, 2011



Series: **EXTREME MAKEOVER**

### Introduction:

If there's one thing you'll learn from the Feast, it's the power of focus. We believe in focusing on the good, not on the bad. Because what we focus on grows. If we focus on the good, it'll grow. Conversely, if we focus on the bad, it'll grow.

**Welcome to our series: *Extreme Makeover*.** In other words, Change. At the end of the day, only love can change us. How can love do that? Precisely because Love focuses on the good. ***(Love never keeps a record of wrong. 1Cor 13).***

When love focuses on the good in us, that good multiplies, grows, develops and reproduces within us. That's why only love can do an extreme makeover in our life. More specifically, **only God's Love can change us forever.**

What does God focus in us? Genesis 1:27 says that we're made in His image. That's what He sees in us. Our beauty. Our Holiness. Our magnificence. Our splendor. Our glory.

God emphasizes NOT on our Sin but on our Beauty! He's message for us is: ***"You're beautiful just the way you are—and I'll make you even more beautiful!"***

### TALK 1- SUBMIT

Whenever we talk about submission, people do so for different reasons:

There are people who submit because they did something wrong. These people are honest. Some submit because they do not know what they're doing. These persons are wise.

Spiritually speaking, some people submit to the Lord WILLINGLY while others do by force of circumstance. St. Paul is an example of the latter.

***"Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples...As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"... Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything."*** (Acts 9:1, 3-4, 8-9).

Let us not wait till we experience an unusual or difficult situation before we submit to the Lord.

### What prevents us from submitting to God? FEAR!

**Fear especially of the unknown is the greatest hindrance to submission.** Our human nature expects us to submit or surrender only when we are assured that doing so is for our best. But surrendering to God whom we do not see and

worse whose assurance is at best unclear (so we think) is very scary indeed. However, our God is a God of goodness whose promises never go wrong. So let us conquer our fear and submit to Him!

**Submission entails trust.** Our surrender will be easier with the knowledge that the One we are submitting to is trustworthy. And here we have Mother Mary as our model because she followed God's special call for her life.

The name Mary literally means "star of the sea". At night, fishermen at the middle of the sea find their way simply by looking at the stars. In the darkness of the sea of our lives, we find our way to Jesus by following the life of Mary. Let Mary be the star of our sea.

### **Let's look at Mama Mary's Life**

*In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy God sent the angel Gabriel... (Luke 1:26-38).* please read your bible for the rest of the passage.

**First Point: Mary had a call.** And responding to it changed her life forever. We all have the same call as Mary did. God calls us to be "pregnant" with Jesus, to be pregnant with His love, to be pregnant with His presence! And yes, to "give birth" to Him, to deliver Him to the people around us. We may have not recognized our Angel yet, but God has sent an Angel to give us His call. Sometimes, it's dramatic. Often times, it's not.

### **Has God been calling you to serve Him?**

Usually, God speaks to us through a quiet voice in our heart. God may have been speaking to you all these years. Let's listen to God.

### **Second Point: God chose Mary an ordinary person.**

*... God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth.*

Nazareth is an unknown and small town whose inhabitants were mostly poor. But God's standards are different from those of man. If man were to choose his mother, he would pick a rich woman or a princess perhaps. But no! He chose a young poor woman from a tiny barrio that very few people knew.

**Why? Because He wanted to tell the world one thing: In His eyes, no one is ordinary. Think about it. Mary was a nobody. Mary was insignificant. Mary was not educated but knew the scriptures very well. Yet God chose her to become the mother of Jesus.**

Earlier, God chose Saul from Israel's smallest and most insignificant tribe and made him its first king. When Saul lost favor with God due to his disobedience, He chose David, a shepherd boy, to be Israel's next king. In the same way, our Lord chooses us to serve Him in a very special way despite our ordinariness because he wants to show the world that to Him, nobody is ordinary!

Mary said, "I'm still a virgin." Others in the Bible had other excuses too when God called them. Moses said, "I'm not a good speaker." Jeremiah said, "I'm too young." Abraham said, "I'm too old." Peter said, "I'm too sinful."

People have not changed. Human nature has not changed. To this day, we like giving excuses. We like explaining why God's Call is impossible:

"I'm too poor." "I don't have time." "I'm too busy." "I'm not educated enough, don't know the bible by heart." "I'm not rich enough." "I'm not gifted enough."

**All of these are not important. What is important is to submit to His calling. And when we say YES like Mama Mary and King David, God will use us powerfully to our delight and surprise.**

***Our excuses to escape His call is His excuse to manifest His power.*** Our limitation is God's stage to proclaim to the world that miracles still happen. So let's not make excuses!

*The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God. Remember your relative Elizabeth. It is said that she cannot have children, but she herself is now six months pregnant, even though she is very old. For there is nothing that God cannot do."*

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

That was Mary's Yes! What about us? What is your Yes to God? When you say Yes, you change your life forever.

**Here's a fact: All new things start with Yes.** Nothing new happens in our life without a Yes. A new relationship doesn't start if we don't say YES. A new job doesn't start unless we say YES. A new ministry, or service, or blessing, or miracle doesn't start unless we say YES. We don't go into a new level in our life unless we say YES.

Mary said YES. And Christmas happened. Salvation History happened. Her YES reconciled us with God and saved us from eternal damnation!

### **Yes Means two things:**

#### **1. Yes Means Trust.**

When we say Yes to God, we're saying Yes to the Unknown. He will lead us to destinations or lands we can't even imagine. We don't know what exactly will happen. That's why Yes requires Trust. Submission is trust. Trust that the best is yet to come.

#### **2. Yes Means Freedom.**

Ironically, when we submit ourselves to God, when we put ourselves at His disposal, when we surrender our freedom to God, that's when we experience true freedom. Freedom doesn't come from insisting on our own way. Freedom doesn't come by being stubborn. Freedom comes from submission to God and to His plan for us!

Jesus said: *I have come that you might have life, life in all its fullness.* (Jn 10:10). Do you want to have a life of inner peace, secured in the thought that God will provide for you your every need, where all kinds of problems and difficulties are met not with fear but with a steadfast conviction that God will not abandon you? Submit yourself to God today and He will bring you from Glory to Glory!