

**Let us pray:** Lord, You are a faithful God. You transform our tragedies into joy. Even if we are surrounded by problems and hardships in life, we believe that blessings and joy will come our way because of Your faithfulness. Give us the grace to respond to Your love and faithfulness by loving and being faithful to one another. Let every family member choose to be faithful to each other, every brother and sister in our community take pride in our relationships and defend, bear with and be faithful to one another. In Jesus' name, we pray. AMEN!

**Questions for Reflection:**

1. Recall at least an instance when God was faithful to you.
2. Think of an incident in your life when you showed faithfulness to your spouse, children, friend or to others.
3. List some of the things you need to do to grow in faithfulness to God, to your neighbours, to your CG or community.

**LOJC FEAST IN THE WEST REMINDERS:**

**APR 9, 2011....FEAST**

HOLY ROSARY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYM, 1:30 p.m.

**APR 16, 2011....COMMUNITY-WIDE LENTEN RETREAT.**

HOLY ROSARY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYM, 1:30 p.m.

**APR 30-MAY 1, 2011....LIVE-IN MARRIAGE DEEPENING RETREAT (MDR),**

LA CONSOLATA

**May 7, 2011....FEAST**

HOLY ROSARY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYM, 1:30 p.m.

**May 14, 2011....FEAST (MAY 23 IS VICTORIA DAY)**

HOLY ROSARY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYM, 1:30 p.m.

**May 28 & 29....LIVING IN THE LIGHT SEMINAR (CLASS 100),**

HOLY ROSARY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**JUNE 4 & 18....FEASTS**

HOLY ROSARY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYM, 1:30 p.m.

**JUNE 9 & 16....FEASTS**

MILTON SENIOR CENTER AUDITORIUM (PLS. NOTE VENUE)

**AUG 12,13,14....LIVE-IN YOUTH JESUS ENCOUNTER**

LA CONSOLATA

**Prophecies March 19, 2011:**

"Matthew 16. 24-27. If any of you wants to come with me you must forget yourself. Carry your cross and follow me. For if you want to save your own life, you will lose it. But if you lose your life for my sake, you will find it. You will gain nothing if you win the whole world but lose your life."

"Baruch 5. Put off your garment of mourning and unhappiness. Put on the splendor and glory of God forever. Wrap yourself in a mantle of holiness that comes from God. Put on your head the crown of glory of the Eternal One. For God will show your splendor to every being under heaven. He will call your name forever. Rise up, stand on the heights, look towards the east and see your children gather together; from the setting of the sun to its rising. By the voice of the holy one rejoicing because God has remembered them."

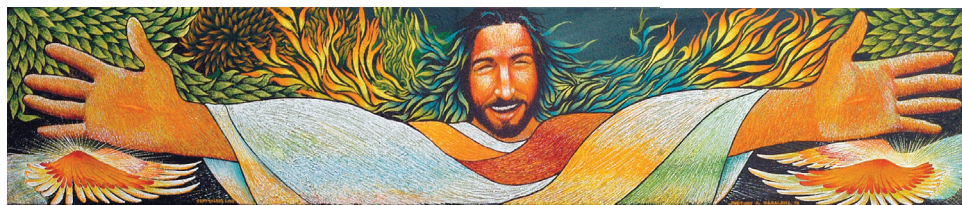
"I confirm the word of God proclaimed in Matthew. The Lord said 'For what does it profit a man or a woman to possess the whole world if he or she loses her soul in the process? My children, I have loved you with an everlasting love and constant is my affection for you."

"My beloved children it is my desire to love you. I love you with an everlasting love. Go, be disciples of all men baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. I am here, I am always here.

# The Feast Bulletin

www.lojcanada.com

April 2, 2011



**SERIES: WIRED**

**Talk 4: Let's Be True To Our Covenants**

**OUR GOD IS A FAITHFUL GOD! BE FAITHFUL AS HE IS FAITHFUL!**

**Deuteronomy 4:31**

*He is a merciful God. He will not abandon you or destroy you, and he will not forget the covenant that He Himself made with your ancestors.*

The entire Bible is about covenants. God having a covenant with Adam and Noah and Abraham and Jacob and Moses... Everytime, God was faithful to those covenants. When man didn't become faithful to the earlier covenant, God returns and drafts another covenant and offers it again to His people. This entire book is about God's faithfulness.

**Isaiah 54:10**

*The mountains and hills may crumble, but my love for you will never end...*

What we thought would not crumble, will crumble. Our parents may fail us. Our spouse may fail us. Our kids may fail us. Our friends may fail us. But the Bible says that our God can never fail us. Because He is faithful.

There was a man named **Elimelech** who came from Bethlehem. He was married to **Naomi** and they had two sons, Mahlon and Chileon. But because of the famine in Israel, they became very poor. So they migrated to **Moab** to try their luck there. In that place, both of his sons married Moabite women—Ruth and Orpah.

But tragedy struck when **Elimelech** died. And after him, both his sons died too. So there were three widows left. You didn't want to become a widow during ancient times. Widows were the poorest of the poor. They could not inherit anything. They could not own property.

Naomi knew this. So she told both her daughters-in-law to leave her now because they would just suffer poverty with her. She said that she'd return to Israel, to her hometown, Bethlehem. Orpah tearfully did as Naomi told her. But Ruth, this extraordinary woman, was an extremely faithful woman. And this was when she said these words...

**Ruth 1:16-17**

*But Ruth answered, "Don't ask me to leave you! Let me go with you. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Wherever you die, I will die, and that is where I will be buried. May the Lord's worst punishment come upon me if I let anything but death; or even death separate me from you!"*

What great love Ruth had for her mother-in-law! She could have gone back to her own parents and her own family. But she didn't. She loved her mother-in-law. She knew Naomi would be all alone. So this Moabite woman left her home and family, went to Israel, knowing they were both widows and would live in poverty. But that didn't stop her from being faithful.

**It's easy to be faithful in good and comfortable times. But that's not faithfulness. That's convenience.**

**One knows he/she is faithful when times are hard.**

**And that was Ruth.**

While in Israel, Ruth worked to feed herself and Naomi. She foraged fields for scraps of food left by harvesters.

One day, she was scavenging in a field owned by a certain man named **Boaz** And he got to know Ruth. And he married her.

**It was God who brought Boaz into Ruth's life because of her faithfulness to Naomi. If she wasn't faithful to Naomi, she would never have met Boaz.**

Right now, you may feel like you're Ruth. You've experienced a great loss in life. Perhaps you've lost a loved one. Perhaps you've lost or losing a marriage. Perhaps your health is failing. Perhaps you've lost your job.

But be faithful. Keep on doing what is right, even when it's difficult.

Keep being selfless even if we don't see any rewards. Continue to give God's loving kindness to people undeserving.

Because we know that one day, God will reward us the way He rewarded Ruth.

One of God's great rewards is He will make the right people walk into our life.

**ARE YOU SINGLE AND LOOKING FOR YOUR LIFE'S PARTNER STILL?**

Then believe that your Boaz will walk into your life. Believe! Even amidst closed doors... because our God is faithful!

**Let's not Keep Looking At The Bad Things That Happened In our Life!**

When a door of happiness closes, another door of happiness opens. But here's our problem: we keep looking at the closed door so long, we don't see the other door opening.

Examples? You're so hurt by that past relationship, or you've been so depressed by that failed business, or you've been so discouraged by that problem, you've not been able to move on. Stop looking at that closed door. Look around you. There's a new door of happiness opening for you!

Ruth experienced a door closing on her life. But she didn't stay looking at that closed door. She could have! She could have said, "Lord, why did you take away my husband, my father-in-law, my brother in law? Could you have not just left as least one guy in the family to take care of us?"

She could have cursed, moped, grumbled, and complained. Instead, she became faithful. She looked around for the new door that was opening in her life.

Brothers and sisters, let's do what she did. Maybe right now, a door that used to be open is now closed. Yes, mourn. It's alright to grieve.

**But after mourning, move on. Don't get stuck. Because blessing will come. Our God is faithful! Remember that.**

**SINCE GOD IS FAITHFUL TO US THROUGH ALL GENERATIONS, HOW DO WE RESPOND TO SUCH FAITHFULNESS?**

**By being Faithful to God and to the people God has placed in our lives!**

I believe that we have 2 lines of relationships that God wants us to be faithful in; the vertical line which is our relationship with Him and the horizontal, our relationship with our family and relatives, our friends, our community brothers and sisters, our co-workers, our neighbours and all other people we interact with. He wants us not only to nurture these relationships but to grow in them.

And the thing is, we cannot favour one and neglect the other because they are inter-dependent. We have to stay connected in both. My spiritual growth depends on how faithful I am in my relationship with God AND with my neighbour. In other words, I cannot say that I am growing in my love of God simply because I spend quality time with Him in prayer, I attend Mass and receive Him in Holy Communion daily, read and meditate on the Bible and other spiritually enriching books. These are very good things to do but these daily spiritual exercises must be complemented by the way I treat my spouse, my children, my neighbours, my co-servants, my brothers and sisters in my CG and the community. Do I serve them selflessly? Do I give them the loving kindness of God? Do I forgive freely and ask forgiveness easily? Even if I do these to those whom I love, how do I treat those who are unlovable, my persecutors, my enemies? If I cannot love them the way I love my God, then I am just being a hypocrite!

Conversely, I may have the best relationships with people who are close and not so close to me. I may give them the best of my love, spend a lot of my time with and serve them but if I do all of these just to please myself, to make me feel good, in the neglecting my prayer life, forgetting to receive the sacraments, disregarding reading the Bible, then I am not being faithful. I am just being an egomaniac, self-centered individual craving for attention and praise.

Remember the story of Martha and Mary? Jesus visited them and began to teach. Martha was so busy serving she could not even hear what Jesus was saying while Mary just sat at the foot of Jesus, listening to Him, unable to notice that her sister, Martha, was loaded with work. I believe we should be both Martha and Mary at any given moment of our life; worshipping God and meditating on His Words while serving His people. Yes, I admit that this is very hard to do but in these days of multi-tasking, I believe that if we set our hearts and minds into it, we can be faithful both to God and to our neighbours.

I believe God designed our friendships or relationships to last forever. When we grow old, we'll realize that life is about relationships. Our body will weaken. Our mind will forget. Our eyesight will dim. Our hearing will become faint. Our house will decay. Our car will rust. We will retire from our jobs. Our bank account will shrink.

But there's one thing that can still keep growing: Our love for one another. Everything else will grow old except our love. So let us choose to be faithful to each other. I'm calling on husband and wife, decide to be faithful to one another, loyal to your children especially when they seem to go astray. Let's choose to be faithful to our friends even if they betray us, to our CG members, to our brothers and sisters in our community even if they hurt us, to our leaders even if we don't agree with how they do things in the community. Let us all decide to make our relationships more important than our ministries, to make people more important than our activities and projects. Why? When unbelievers look at this broken Body of Christ, the Light of Jesus, and see how loving and faithful we are to each other, they will say, "Truly, God lives in them."