

Questions for Reflection:

1. Are we suffering from any form of "blessing allergies"? If yes, which one? What can you do to begin healing that allergy?
2. Are there any blessings in your life right now that you failed to recognize as a blessing? What are they, permanent or temporary, or both?

LOJC FEAST IN THE WEST REMINDERS:

JUNE 18.....FEAST - HOLY ROSARY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYM, 1:30 p.m.

JULY 9 & 16.... FEASTS - MILTON SENIOR CENTER AUDITORIUM, 1:30 PM
(PLS. NOTE VENUE)

JULY 23, 2011....LOJC-WIDE FAMILY DAY. DETAILS TO FOLLOW

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

AUG. 6 & 20... FEASTS - MILTON SENIOR CENTER AUDITORIUM, 1:30 PM
(PLS. NOTE VENUE)

SEPT. 10.....FEAST - HOLY ROSARY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYM, 1:30 p.m.

SEPT. 17, 2011...15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, DETAILS TO FOLLOW

Prophecies - May 14 FEAST:

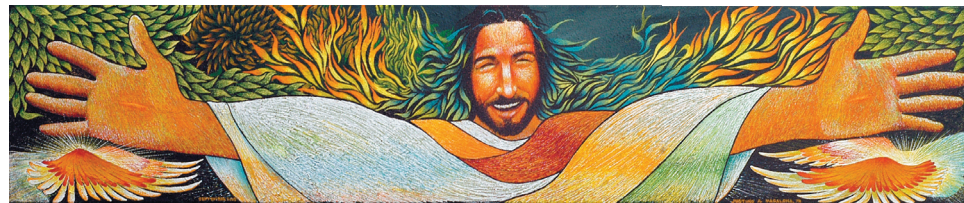
"From 2 Cor. 16-18. Brothers and sisters, for this reason, we never become discouraged even though our physical being is gradually decaying, yet our spiritual being is renewed day after day. And the small and temporary trouble is producing for us a tremendous and eternal glory much greater than the trouble. For we seek our attention not on things which are seen but things that are unseen. What is seen can last only for a time but things that are not seen will last forever."

"Whoever drinks of the water I give him will never be thirsty again. The water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life"

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SERIES: DRENCHED

Talk 4: Enjoy The Blessings

Bad as you are, you know how to give good things to your children. How much more, then, will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him! (Matthew 7:11)

No earthly father or mother is perfect. But one's kids don't have to beg their dads or moms each morning, "Daddy or Mommy, please give me breakfast..." Even if they don't ask, their parents give them breakfast. Because they need it.

Most fathers do not give their children expensive toys but they see to it that they go to the best schools!

The message: "I will provide for their needs not their wants.

God Responds To Our Needs In The Same Way!

Again, to emphasize, there is no perfect father here on earth. But our God is a perfect Father. And He responds to our needs in the same way.

The point? Expect our Father in heaven to always meet ALL our needs.

We need to say this core belief over and over again: **"God loves to give me good things."** Some people think they need to convince God to bless them; to beg Him; to twist His arm. Believe me, we don't have to do all that. Because it's His desire to give us good things. And we don't have to convince Him to bless us.

Increase Your Capacity To Enjoy Life

Taste and see that the Lord is good. (Psalms 34:8)

Yes, God is good, all the time. But do we taste His goodness? Do we savor it? Do we feel it? Do we experience it? Do we delight in it? Do we dance and sing in it?

Since God is always good to us, He also wants us to enjoy His goodness.

If God gives a man wealth and property and lets him enjoy them, he should be grateful and enjoy what he has worked for. It is a gift from God. (Ecclesiastes 5:19)

Here's God's big message for us today: The more grateful we are, the more we'll enjoy our blessings! Sometimes we take His blessings for granted.

Let's read it again: The more grateful we are, the more we'll enjoy our blessings.

One's gratitude is directly proportionate to that person's enjoyment. The more grateful we are, the more enjoyment we feel.

I believe life is like an Eat-All-You-Can Buffet. God has placed us in the middle of a Buffet of Blessings. But I now realize that there are people who are allergic to God's blessings. They can't enjoy God's Blessings. And I believe this "blessing allergy" comes from two crazy beliefs...

1. "I'm Too Bad To Be Blessed"

From our childhood upbringing there are people who are very close to us who kept on telling us that we are good for nothing; that we do not deserve anything or that we cannot achieve anything. When this gets into our sub-conscious mind, we are no longer able to enjoy our blessings because we think that we don't deserve it. Right?

The second belief is the exact opposite...

2. "I'm Too Good To Be Blessed"

From a wrong misconception, some of us think that when we don't receive any blessing, we are blessed because holiness should embrace suffering. This is only true to those who have been called to special vocation and who do it out of love for God. St. Francis of Assisi, St. Claire and Mother Teresa of Calcuta are examples. But for most of us that's not true.

The Right Kind Of Suffering

It's true that the Christian life is a life of suffering. But not suffering for suffering's sake. But suffering for the sake of love!

Real love can only be proven by suffering. Jesus Himself showed this to us through His death on the cross. This is the suffering that's pleasing to God. Let's correct our belief about the Christian life and Christian suffering.

**Warning: When We're Not Grateful For The Blessings,
We May Lose Them.**

To Enjoy A Blessing, We Need To Know It's a Blessing

Learn to enjoy what we have. Do you have a baby at home? When you have dirty diapers to change, that's a blessing. Because that means your baby can pee and poo. Believe me, if one day, your baby can't poo, you'll be crying non-stop, praying on your knees until he poos.

When the kids are noisy, and we feel irritated, that's a blessing. Why? First of all, that means our kids are still at home. A day will come when the kids will grow up and leave us. And one day, we'll be living in an empty, quiet house. And you'll be praying for the noise to come back! Oh, enjoy the noise while it lasts.

When you have dirty dishes to wash in your sink, that's a blessing.

That means God has blessed you with delicious food to eat, and family and friends to eat with you.

When we have to pay taxes, that's a blessing. That means we earned money or we own a property. So many people don't have money.

When we have problems with our boss, that's a blessing. That means we have a job. So many people are looking for jobs and can't find any.

Remember, there are two kinds of blessings...

Two Kinds Of Blessings

Not all blessings are created equal. Some blessings are temporary. Some blessings are permanent.

In 2009, when typhoon Ondoy ravaged our home country, a lot of people lost everything they owned. Money, jewelry, clothes, appliances, cars and their home. The flood rose up so quickly, they couldn't save a thing.

But there was this couple who were so happy even if they only saved the clothes they were wearing at that time. The reason? They did not lose any of their children because of the father's timely decision to send his wife and their children to a higher place.

When interviewed, the father said, "Yes, we lost everything, but today I am so happy I made the best decision in my life when I told my wife and our children to get out of the house immediately. Now, we feel as though we have everything."

What happened?

This couple realized the difference between permanent blessings and temporary blessings.

Yes, our loved ones do die. But we know that we'll meet them again. Because death is temporary and Heaven is permanent.

When we enjoy our permanent blessings (love, people, relationships), we'll be able to also enjoy our temporary blessings. If we love being with our family, we will spend time with them more often. We'll rush home from work or even spend our vacations with them and enjoy them. But if we don't like being with our family, it wouldn't matter if we take a trip to Disneyland or we visit Paris or London —we still won't enjoy them.

Enjoy Your Greatest Blessing

God isn't only the Blesser. He is also the Greatest Blessing you'll ever receive.

Let's enjoy Him!

Let's pray. Heavenly Father, teach us to enjoy the blessings that come to us day in and day out. Teach us to see how you are blessing our life and community and give us the grace to enjoy these blessings more and more. Above all, give us a grateful heart to be able to thank you and the people you use for the blessings that come to our lives, in Jesus Name!