



December
2017
ADVENT
CHRISTMAS
Magazine of Cathedral of the King

Koinonos

Vol 36 Issue 2



*O Come,
Let us adore Him!*

Contents

Hope We Have, Hope We Give page 3

A Cup of Christmas page 4

Have you seen the Light? page 6

**THE ONE
THAT HE
LOVES**

page 8



page 11

**Can
Devoted
Christians
be Depressed?**
page 9

LET ME IN
page 10

About the Cover:

The Illustration of the Nativity of our Lord is a beautiful creation of the very talented 9-year old Marie Franchesca Montesa Develos. She invites us: Come, let us adore Him!

The Most Reverend Ariel Cornelio P. Santos
Bishop, Cathedral of the King

Editorial and Technical Advisers Nimfa Grace Jorvina / Marilie Thurman / Fr. Gary Thurman
Contributors Dr. Maribel Develos / Mia Santos / Shekaina Ingrid Diaz /
Sis. Norma Lai / Luigi Pepino / Emea Abalajen / Raciell Villar **Layout** Cielo Caubalejo
Head, Holy Society of the Chroniclers Gerry Ramos

Koinonos is a community publication of the Cathedral of the King
4776 Sampaguita St., Marimar Village I, Bgy. Sun Valley, Paranaque City

URL: www.cotkmanila.org **f:** [cathedraloftheking](https://www.facebook.com/cathedraloftheking) **Koinonos e-pub:** [facebook.com/KoinonosOfCOTK](https://www.facebook.com/KoinonosOfCOTK)



HOPE WE HAVE, HOPE WE GIVE

by Bishop Ariel Santos

I chanced upon a well-written article about Jesus editing a passage from Isaiah. In Luke 4, Jesus proclaims that the prophecy in Isaiah 61 is fulfilled in Him and that God's favorable year of jubilee and pardon has come. His Jewish hearers did not like His omission of the part that talks about "the day of vengeance of our God." It was a scandalous suggestion that God's favor is for everybody, including their enemies. The Messiah is supposed to exact vengeance on Israel's oppressors. That is what their religion of retribution dictates. And here comes somebody claiming to be the Anointed One and teaching enemy-love and trying to douse their lust for revenge.

Excellent article. I totally agree with it, and would like to explore it further – but not today. In this one, I offer a different way without negating the premise.

Isaiah's prophecy truly was fulfilled in Jesus. He was the Messiah through whom God would bring hope to the poor, broken-hearted, prisoners, captives and those who mourn, and joy in place of their pain and suffering. Part of His work, though, is the destruction of their oppressive enemies.

continue on page 5



by Nimfa Grace V. Jorvina

Brrr. The days are getting colder. A cup of coffee is perfect on a cold morning. Or perhaps, a cup of tea at night.

As I write this, "all through the house, not a creature is stirring, not even a mouse." The Christmas tree is up, hundreds of lights glow, and decors sparkle. It has been a day of housework, decorating, cooking, and running errands. Now everyone has gone to bed. Tonight, the air is cold and crisp. Perfect. I am having a cup of Christmas. I am having my moment.

The season of Advent is a time to slow down and reflect to prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Savior, whose coming heralded the salvation of mankind. One might think, "Whoa! That is heavy stuff. 'Salvation,' you say? What do you mean 'Reflection'? Preparation? There is so much to do, so little time. We can't even have a few minutes to say 'Thank You, God' in a frenzied time

of work, final exams, celebrations, shopping, reunions, and a host of things we need to do. We have deadlines at work, *pasaway* children, bills to pay, a long list of must-haves and an even longer list of *inaanak*." We sigh, 'I am so stressed!' We miss our loved ones who have passed on and we shed tears. We look forward to be with our crush and we get *kilig* moments. Most of us are familiar with the external rites and traditions – Christmas trees, decorations, and displays as early as October, the JMC version of "Christmas in our Hearts," *Simbang Gabi* or Advent Hour, Christmas parties, reunions, exchange gifts, endless eating, more gifts, more parties, more eating until . . . we end up exhausted to enjoy the twelve wonderful, glorious, marvelous, extraordinary, even magical days of Christmas!

What about the internal rites and traditions? What about our hearts at this time of the year?

It is time for a cup of Christmas.

Each day, when we prepare to go to school or work, we take a shower and put on clean clothes. We want to be fresh and clean. But as soon as we step out of our homes, the fumes of cars and the trash on the pavements greet us. Vendors, cars and tricycles that park where pedestrians ought to pass, spittle and animal poop, and diggings in the streets can turn a fabulous and fresh morning into a messy, harassing, stressful time. We interact with people, and sometimes they dump their toxins on us. If we don't watch out, we become toxic, too!

This is why we need a cup of Christmas in each of our days. It is our time with our Lord. It is our time of refreshing. For a few moments, we can wipe off dirt from our skin, wash our hands, clean our face, and make ourselves fresh again. We breathe and we sigh, and smile again. With a cup of Christmas, we can

collect ourselves after we have been exposed to the toxins around us. Toxins are not only physical. The more dangerous ones are the unseen kind, the ones that bombard and poison our hearts and our souls. We choose to slow down, reflect, be grateful, and drink from our cup of Christmas. It is an action that we do deliberately, purposely, and meaningfully. We think about how the Lord has always been present with us each moment of our lives. We think of how much He loves us. We think of how we can be a blessing to Him and to the people around us. These things take a while. But then we begin to notice something. We begin to smile again. We wallow not on our past mistakes and what others have done to us. We complain less, and overlook offenses. We are no longer moody. We begin to see work in its many forms as a blessing, and we choose to finish our tasks to honor Him. We begin to appreciate the people around us. We

continuation from page 3

in Luke 1 looks forward to a time of deliverance from enemies so that Israel may serve God without fear. He so loved the world that He gave His life to destroy what was destroying man. Revelation 17 depicts the destruction of Babylon (which, by the way, is not the biggest religious institution in the world, but a symbol of any opponent of the life God wills for man). Sickness and disease are also enemies, and so are injustice, violence, poverty and everything else that causes bondage, hurt, and mourning. The ultimate enemy is death. Its sting has been taken away and it will be utterly crushed one day, and "He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, the veil which is stretched over all nations; He will swallow up death for all time, and wipe tears away from all faces, and remove the reproach of His people from all the earth."

If you are in a place of mourning, poverty, broken-heartedness or captivity, or even recovering from a situation that left scars on you, find comfort in the assurance of God's promise and Jesus' ministry of restoration of all things and eradication of everything against life. God has chosen gladly to give us His kingdom, and it is all about the abundant life of righteousness, peace and joy. Christmas is the advent of that kingdom. May we celebrate it with hope as we look forward to the ever-increasing realization of the heavenly kingdom right here where

the challenges and struggles are and right in our hearts. That is the very hope offered to us by the Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us.

Huge thanks to God for such deliverance! I can end the story right here, but that would render it incomplete. Going back to Isaiah 61, the very people who formerly were the poor, broken-hearted, prisoners, captives and mournful, and became beneficiaries of God's jubilee, were the same ones He invited to participate in His work of restoration. This was so that they could be called "oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord," that He may be glorified. Then they would rebuild the ancient ruins and raise up the former devastations.

This is the Body of Christ today. As He is, so are we in this world. We are to fulfill this calling and continue the ministry of sowing love where there is hatred, pardon where there is injury, faith where there is doubt, hope where there is despair, light where there is darkness, and joy where there is sadness. No one has to be without hope and without, God especially in this season of joy. May we be able to say to a hurting world, "Look at us", and deliver the answer it needs, because that is precisely the way it is in the kingdom of God.

work not for the pay, nor study for the grade. We do our tasks because we are grateful for the opportunity. We are grateful for the responsibility. We actually work for Him, our provider. This is the work of God. He purifies our hearts and our minds. There is no more room for stress or worry. All this is ours when we have our cup of Christmas. This is the kind that overflows and will never run out.

Our own personal journeys have been marked with the chances, changes, and challenges of life. As a people, we have seen the end of the liturgical year, capped with a celebration of the Kingship of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now we are invited to reflect not only on our individual journeys, but more importantly, on our journey as a community. We look back and see the hand of God with us. We see how our journeys have brought us close to Him in spite of the stops, detours, and rough roads. The Lord has prepared us for what is coming, and we can look forward with hope. It is going to be beautiful.

This is the time when we can begin anew, restart, and recharge. It sounds ironic, but it could put sense and meaning into us. We do need to press our re-set buttons. The journey comes with a mandate and a call for us His people to purify ourselves, just as He is pure. It is a day-to-day journey each one must take. We must be willing to stop and reflect. We must be willing to undergo cleansing and purifying so that we can be pure just like our Lord.

And, if I may add, we need to sit down and commune with our Lord over a cup of Christmas. We may have prepared for Christmas time. But He has prepared us for our journeys of a lifetime.

Have a cup of Christmas today and every day. Have a beautiful time with our Lord, who gives meaning, purpose, and beauty to all our Christmases!

HAVE YOU SEEN THE LIGHT?

by Fr. Gary and Marilie Thurman

"Darkness will cover the earth, and deep darkness the peoples." (Isaiah 60: 2a)

Many understand this verse from Isaiah to describe the condition of the world at the time of the coming of Jesus Christ. Many references, both biblical and historical, would affirm this belief. But likewise, many believe it describes the condition of our world today, as well.

Wait, something's wrong here.

Because the second half of the verse says, *"But the Lord will arise upon you, and His glory will appear upon you."* Christians believe this to be a prophecy foretelling the coming of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, to dispel the darkness and bring people into His marvelous light. So why, two thousand years after His coming, does "dark" seem to be the factory setting for the attitudes, philosophies, and even the very lives of so many? Even for believers, the indigo blue of the cloths on our altars and the candles in our Advent wreaths seem to reflect the darkest hour of the midnight of our existence. (As, indeed, was the intention) Is this the way it was supposed to happen? Has the Light shone in the darkness, given it His best shot, but was simply unable to get the job done? Because let's face it, many people, especially the young, have lost all hope that our world, our society, will ever get any better. So is this darkness, this misery for so many, this hopelessness in the hour of our discontent, somehow the best God has for us?

No, that's not the Gospel, for it's certainly not good news! A look further back into Isaiah's writings will bring – well, light – into this situation. In the eighth chapter, He exposes a big part of the problem of His day, and ours. In verse seventeen he confesses, *"I will wait for the Lord Who is hiding His face from the house of Jacob; I will even look eagerly for Him."* Sounds like Advent, does it not? Then he complains that many are looking for light and hope in the wrong place: *"Should not a people consult their God? Should they consult the dead on behalf of the living?"* Rather than limiting this to the traditional culprits – fortune tellers, astrologers, mediums, and those of that ilk – apply it also to those who seek truth among dead philosophy, or even dead religions, things that have departed from literal, scriptural, liberating truth. To those who have made such a "journey of discovery" Isaiah says, "To

the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn." Again, the imagery of Advent darkness and Christmas light is invoked. Continuing, *"Then they will look to the earth, and behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish; and they will be driven away into darkness."*

We see here that those who look for hope outside of God will indeed experience darkness. And yes, this is the condition of our society today, because this present darkness finds its cause and root in the lack of hope. But just because this hope is unseen or unaccepted by many people does not mean that it is absent; for now Isaiah continues with one of the most well-known Advent/Christmas scriptures of all: *"There will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish . . . the people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them . . . For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us . . ."* Indeed, the child of Bethlehem is promised to bring light! So the light is there . . . but where? Who do many not seem to see it?

If darkness is caused by lack of hope, what causes lack of hope? Romans 15: 4 reminds us that *"through the patience and comfort of the scriptures we might have hope."* We must remember scriptures like Psalm 112: 4: *"Light arises in darkness for the upright."* Part of the Christmas message is that *"the Sunrise from on high shall visit us, to shine on those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."* (Luke 1: 78-79) St. Paul tells us that Jesus has *"delivered us from the domain of darkness."* (Colossians 1: 13) After all, *"The entrance of God's Word gives light (Psalm 119: 130), and in Christ that "Word became flesh, and dwelt among us."* (John 1: 14) Now that Word, that light, is ever with us, because *"God Himself is light; in Him there is no darkness at all."* (1 John 1: 5) Perhaps that is why God chose to announce and signify the entrance into the world of His glorious light with a beacon of light – a star. (Matthew 2: 2, 9, 10)

But let us remember: not everyone saw that star, or recognized its significance. Other than the Magi, who rejoiced when they saw the star? We aren't told of anyone else. Instead, as St. John ruefully comments, *"The light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light."* (John

3: 19) As Isaiah had said before, they substituted darkness for light and light for darkness. (*Isaiah 5: 20*) Why this unthinkable bad deal? That's like swapping ten acres of prime Manhattan real estate for ten meters of provincial swampland!

St. Paul gives us an understanding of this "bad trade" mindset in another classic Advent scripture, 1 Thessalonians chapter five. *"You are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night or of darkness ... for those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night."* (vv. 5-7) In other words, in the day you work; at night you sleep. In the day you live righteously; at night you sin and commit "deeds of darkness."

Despite the fact that many Christians believe that life in Christ involves no work, no responsibility; just going around seeking blessings and asking God to open doors and make ways for us, that's not the principle found in the Bible. God's first command to Adam and Eve was not, "Hang around, chill, I'll take care of everything." No, it was "Cultivate the Garden. Tend it." In other words, "Work! Take responsibility!" But those in the darkness, especially the darkness of depression, find it hard to rouse the motivation to work, to even function. Thus, they prefer the listless night of inactivity; sleep over work, even in the day.

Similarly, some have no interest in living righteous lives. In St. Paul's first century imagery, they prefer to do things that should not be done in broad daylight. (My, how times have changed! Sin is now acceptable 24/7, in the spotlight even!) They, too, prefer the dark unrighteousness of hedonistic lives to the light of holy living.

It is similar to the psalmist's description of a certain group of people: *"There were those who dwelt in darkness and in the shadow of death, prisoners in misery and chains, because they had rebelled against the words of God, and spurned the counsel of the Most High."* (*Psalms 107: 10, 11*) Rebellion leads to darkness, and once in the dark, it's instinctive to want to stay there.

But the story does not stop there! John 1: 5 gives an interesting insight: *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it."* But that word "comprehend" can also mean "overpower." Which is it? Perhaps both. Undeniably there are those who do not comprehend the light, and continue their hopeless walk. But for those with hearts longing to experience the hope of Advent and the joy of Christmas, the Sun of righteousness rises with healing in His wings; the Holy Spirit comes as a fire of zeal and energy, and one is empowered to *"give yourself to the hungry, and satisfy the desires of the afflicted,"* so that *"your light will arise in the darkness, and your gloom become like midday."* (*Isaiah 58: 10*) The lethargy will be gone! Even if both your present circumstances and your future prospects seem equally bleak, know that there is hope for you, now and in the future, because God is always there. He is the God of the night as well as the day, and when He brings us into seemingly dark times, rest assured that, 1) it is for His good purpose, and, 2) it is not forever.

In the spirit of the newspaper editor of the last century who wrote a Christmas column entitled, "Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus", we say to those who, in this holiday season of lights, know only darkness, "Yes, Virginia, there is hope, because there is always God, and He is the God of hope." Truly, in 2018 our testimony can be that of David in 2 Samuel 22: 29:

"You are my lamp, O Lord; God illumines my darkness."

*Have a merry Christmas and
a shining, brilliant, illumined
2018 to all!*

THE ONE THAT HE LOVES

by Mia Santos

Two years ago on December 25, our family kept vigil in a funeral chapel. The wife of my husband's brother passed away. Cancer snuffed the life out of her 43-year-old body. Death's claws gripped another neck. The rich loam welcomed another lifeless body.

My brother-in-law was trying to put his brave face on, smiling, chatting away amidst handshakes and pats on the back, trying so hard to hold it all together. Even their son who is in the throes of teen hood seemed to think we can all be fooled by his facade. But we all know what happens when they go back to their empty castle. It will all sink in.

Every corner of every room will be a reminder of her— a framed photograph, a hand-sewn throw pillow, a scribbled note, artificial flowers on the table, curtains, and many more.

She is in every little piece of the house.

Their queen has left them. Grief will strike and they will not be able to hold back the dam anymore.

I know as Christians, we should celebrate Christmas. After all, it is supposedly the merriest time of the year. But how can we at a time like this? Let us keep it real here. We all hate death.

Death sucks. The hurt sucks. No matter what you know about your loved one being in a better place, or whatever comforting words were given, your heart will still be crushed.

This is only one of the oh-so-many circumstances when Christmas will be a season attached to sadness.

Pain does not take a break when the holidays get here. Sometimes the holidays can expose our longings and laments and it makes it difficult to know how to celebrate with a troubled heart.

Did you know that Christmas is the time of year that people experience a high incidence of depression? (This is according to the National Institute of Health in the US.) Yes folks, it sure looks like the Grinch is having some major fun.

It may be that the excessive commercialization of the season and the social activities have triggered people to "self-reflect" and focus on the inadequacies of life.

Christians are not exempt from this. There are some who during this season look in the mirror and only see the labels they attach to themselves:

Widower...

Battered wife...

Separated...

Severely sick...

Overweight...

Struggling single mom...

Still single...

Out of job...

Loser...

And the list goes on..

Now let us grab the door of opportunity to be of service to these people. Let us remind them of the proper label that they should be wearing—"the one that He loves."

The famous sisters Mary and Martha understood this, especially when their brother Lazarus was deathly ill. In John 11:3, "*The sisters therefore sent to Him saying, 'Lord, behold, he whom You*

love is sick.'"

Even the apostle John wears his lanyard ID everyday.

In John 13:23 *the disciple Jesus loved was sitting next to Jesus at the table.*

In John 20:2 *And so she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved.*

In John 21:20 *Peter turned around and saw behind them the disciple Jesus loved.*

It is not out of arrogance that John would think he was the favorite or that he was the only one loved by the Lord. He just gets it! He has the marrow-deep understanding of how loved he is. The Lord Jesus wants to show us that this label is something we can personally claim and attach to ourselves as well as to others.

After all, it is the main and true reason of Christmas. **Emmanuel** – "God with us." Let me rephrase it a bit. It is God saying "I am with you" because I love you!

For those who are in a difficult, lonely, or trying situation, maybe all they need is someone who can sit with them. Someone who can be a hand to hold, a shoulder to cry on. Someone who can say, "You are the one He loves." Someone who can impulsively grab their backpack and say "*Tara! Samahan kita!*" A tangible Emmanuel to them.

Let us go out of our way to make the season a happy, merry one for someone who needs to be reminded that the holidays are holy days. Happy is good. **Holy is better.**

Depression and other mental illnesses can become very touchy subjects to talk about among Christians. The stigma related to depression often prevents a person from seeking guidance and support. A devoted Christian may try to hide what he actually goes through for fear of being judged by others as lacking spiritual maturity or faith in God. But depression is not due to a defect in a person's character. Job was a blameless and upright man, yet he struggled with depression through his great loss, devastation, and physical illness. David wrote about his anguish, loneliness and downcast soul. The prophet Elijah even prayed to the Lord to take his life because of all the troubles he went through. Jonah also got angry and thought of dying. Moses was grieved, Jeremiah wrestled with great loneliness, and even Jesus was deeply anguished.

Like pneumonia that is caused by either a bacterial or viral infection, depression is also considered a medical condition that needs to be managed and treated. Untreated depression increases the chances of risky behaviors such as drug or alcohol addiction. It can also ruin relationships and cause problems at work. Depression is a disorder that makes a person sad, but it is different from normal sadness because this condition makes it hard for him to work, study, or do everyday tasks. Unlike physical pain which can be described by a scale, severe depression is often beyond description. A person suffering from this illness may not even recognize it because symptoms of depression often tend to contradict each other.

Can Devoted Christians be Depressed?

by Dra. Marie Develos

How do you know if you are depressed? If you feel down most of the time for at least two weeks and also have at least one of these two symptoms:

- You no longer enjoy or care about doing the things you used to like to do
 - You feel sad, down, hopeless, or cranky most of the day, almost every day
- Depression is not the only cause of these symptoms, but it can bring them about.

If you or someone you care for seems depressed, you can: challenge negative thinking through meditation and prayer; reach out, get support from others, and stay connected with the people you love; find ways to support others; get enough sleep and exercise, eat properly, get outside and consider help from a professional Christian psychologist. There is help available, you don't have to face depression alone!

On the 3rd Sunday of Advent, I participated in our choir's Christmas presentation of *Love Came Down At Christmas*, a cantata by Joel Raney.

Greetings!

Yes, love comes down at Christmas for all of us just as it came down more than 2,000 years ago in that lowly stable.

What an appropriate message for us – to embrace and hold on to in the midst of poverty, want, hunger, pain, political unrest, social media frenzy.

Yes, love comes down to families at feud, to individuals struggling with sin and forgiveness. THIS DIVINE LOVE HEALS. THIS REACHING-OUT LOVE FORGIVES. It is for you and me. And it is for us to give.

It is in this spirit that I share this sublime love of the Great Immanuel who is ever patient, kind, persevering, hopeful, believing and enduring.

LOVE HAS COME DOWN ON EACH OF US.

Merry Christmas!

♥ Norma Lai (Our Lady of Loretto Parish, Novato, California)

LET ME IN

by Shekaina Ingrid Diaz

(Knocking) *Please let me in.*

(Carolling) *Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow Me. I will bring you home. I love you and you are Mine.*

It's the most wonderful time of the year. It's normal this season to have children sing non-stop and say "Namamasko po!" Filipino homes would then do either of these – "Tawad muna, balik nalang kayo!" or give money or sweets as treats to the children.

One Christmas, I had someone knocking and singing at my door. I was not ready to open it nor had the energy to tell him na "balik nalang kayo sa susunod." I was exhausted. I was crying so hard. I felt alone. The feeling of being broken continues to shatter into pieces and has been creeping into the creases of my walls. Coming from a rock bottom situation, I didn't know how on earth I should celebrate Christmas then. I locked up in my home. I made sure no one saw me like that – depressed, stressed, and physically weak. Yet at those times which I have to interact with people, I made sure that they see me winning in the outside and hid as much as possible the weeping deeply inside.

Another day, another month, another season came into my life. I am inside my home. I feel a little better now, and as I was answering work mails, I began to hear that same familiar voice knocking and singing at my door. I didn't do anything about it because I was so preoccupied with work.

Weeks passed and I am inside my home, feeling empty again as I browse my online accounts. Suddenly, I began hearing that same familiar voice knocking and singing at my door. Confused, I peeked outside my window and to my surprise, I saw the stranger. I thought, "Really, is this his part time job -- in season and out of season? My heart beat faster than before. I didn't want him to see me. I didn't want to open. He is knocking on the walls of sinful structure and I am unworthy of His healing. Even though I already felt claustrophobic with all the condemnation, I was firm that I won't let him in.



Open up the door for me.

Then I realized that my so-called home is a prison. Then I recognized that He was the One singing for me last Christmas, knocking at my door when I was crying and calling me when I was stressed. I then came to understand that I have Him every day at my door but I was just oblivious. I see His love, His song is my true home.

Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow Me I will bring you home. I love you and you are Mine.

He is faithful. He is knocking. He wants to hear you, to heal you. Open the door for Him this season of your life and He will make all things new.

And through you, through your willingness, great things happen.

He is among us today. He has miracles for us and through us, despite our unbelief, despite our pain, despite our imperfections. He uses all ways and does everything to reach us, to call us, to minister to us, and to show us His love.

W.
W.
J.
D.



by Luigi Pepino

A few months ago, a friend of mine gave me a bracelet that read W.W.J.D. I then asked him what it meant. He told me, "What do you think?" Replying in a sarcastic tone, I said, "What do you think? Then it's supposed to be W.D.Y.T." But he replied with a more serious tone and said, "No, it means "What Would Jesus Do"." Since then I began wearing this bracelet, and every time I am faced with challenges, problems, or anything that might bring my spirits down, I glance at my bracelet and stare at the initials: WWJD. What would Jesus do if He encounters a slow wifi connection, an annoying classmate, a friend suffering from an illness, or an exasperating co worker?

The bracelet has helped me ask these questions and at the same time, has led me to make choices based on what I "thought" Jesus would do or be like in this era. But to answer the question of what Jesus would really be like in the 21st century and how He reaches out can lead our imagination to thinking about numerous possibilities. Imagine, Jesus on a phone texting? Or, as a normal high school student with modern clothes, jogger pants with a shirt that read,

"#blessed." Imagine anything you want but one thing is for sure; He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The generation has probably changed but He would still remain simple, unblemished, innocent—the holy Son of God. The people during those times cannot comprehend that a man living a simple life, wearing simple clothes and walking barefoot on the roads of Galilee, was the perfect son of God.

If He were living in the 21st century, Jesus could be probably one of the people that we come in contact with who have influenced our lives in simple ways. Jesus could probably be an ordinary man working a part time job as a mechanic, whose His skills and talents would amaze co-workers. He may be popularly known, and people may have no idea they are with the Son of God. He may be the One who commutes to school and would sometimes help other students with their heavy bags. He could have a cell phone, but He probably would think twice about wasting time playing games or scrolling through social media. He could be the one who greets His friends "good morning." He could be the one who visits a sick friend every day. When He wakes up early in the morning, He could be the one cleaning up the trash in front of His neighbor's home.

Maybe you have encountered someone of the like before. Maybe you have been waiting for someone to help you ease the pain, without knowing that a person has been sent your way to minister to you. You may not realize that other people's simple gestures are sparks that will continue to sustain you. Zaccheus found hope and newness in life when Jesus, the Son of God, passed by. Maybe you have a friend or a co-worker who needs encouragement. Perhaps you are overwhelmed with schoolwork. You may have bills to pay or a difficult thesis to finish.

What would Jesus do? Think about it.



Ordination



Ordination to the Order of the Presbyterate of Rev. Fr. Pepito S. Consunji, Jr., Rev. Fr. Rogello A. Miguel, Jr., Rev. Fr. Arnel B. Nuñez and Rev. Fr. Garry F. Salguero