



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

December 2019

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THE EDITORS OF THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER'S 1ST SATURDAY NEWSLETTER ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING THE CONSISTENT QUALITY AND ACCURACY OF THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER'S 1ST SATURDAY NEWSLETTER AND AS SUCH RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REJECT OR EDIT THE CONTENT OF ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR PUBLICATION. EDITING MAY INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, CHANGES TO GRAMMAR, SYNTAX AND STYLES, REMOVAL OF OFFENSIVE CONTENT AND REMOVAL OF PERSONAL NON-PUBLIC INFORMATION. SUBMISSION OF YOUR ARTICLE SIGNIFIES YOUR AGREEMENT TO THE TERMS AFOREMENTIONED.

ADVENT: LEARNING TO WAIT

By *Richella Parha*
www.renovare.org



Every few years, some kind of small appliance emerges as the latest and greatest holiday gift. From the Vegomatic to the Fry Daddy to the George Foreman grill -- there's always something that promises great returns for the home cook. This year is no exception. The latest craze? The Instant Pot, a countertop gadget that will cook food in a fraction of the time of other methods.

That's not really surprising, is it? Nobody likes to wait. We get out of it whenever we can. We drive on expressways, choose the express lane at the grocery store, and pay extra for express shipping.

Like it or not, though, this kind of waiting is part of life. Slow-moving traffic or cash register lines might be irritating, but mostly they just try our patience.

Another kind of waiting though, requires a lot more than patience, such as: Prisoners wait to be set free; chronically ill patients wait to be healed; refugees wait to return home; separated families wait to be reunited; those in danger wait to be rescued.

That kind of waiting takes courage -- courage to remain strong and faithful, no matter how long the waiting takes.

The ancient Israelites knew a lot about that kind of waiting. Long promised a Messiah, they endured centuries of hardship. Siege. Destruction. Exile. Slavery. No wonder the psalmist sang:

"Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord!" (Psalm 31:24 ESV)

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FEASTS FOR DECEMBER

The feasts on the General Roman Calendar celebrated during the month of December are:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 First Sunday of Advent, Sunday | 23 John of Kanty, Opt. Mem. |
| 3 Francis Xavier, Memorial | 25 Christmas, Solemnity |
| 6 Nicholas, Opt. Mem. | 26 Stephen, Feast |
| 7 Ambrose, Memorial | 27 John, Feast |
| 8 Second Sunday of Advent, Sunday | 28 Holy Innocents, Feast |
| 9 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Patronal Feast day of the United States of America ,
Solemnity | 29 Holy Family, Feast |
| 11 Damasus I, Opt. Mem. | 31 Sylvester I, Opt. Mem. |
| 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe (USA), Feast | |
| 13 Lucy, Memorial | |
| 14 John of the Cross, Memorial | |
| 15 Third Sunday of Advent, Sunday | |
| 21 Peter Canisius, Opt. Mem. | |
| 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent, Sunday | |

The feast of St. Thomas Becket (December 29) is superseded by the Sunday liturgy. The feast of the Immaculate Conception (December 8) has been transferred to December 9 because of the Sunday Liturgy. ☐

THANK YOU

... a small and simple phrase that comes from a grateful heart!

Psalm 106:2

<p><u>Las Vegas, Nevada</u> 800 Our Father Devotion December 21, 2019 Joyce Ulmer</p>	<p><u>Los Angeles, California</u> 800 Our Father Devotion December 21, 2019 Miles & Edith Avanzado Josie Manaois Mildred Maramag Carolina Pineda Elena Rosales Marlyn Saraza</p>
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OUR CENACLE CORNER

*Seeking a deeper relationship with God
through meditation of passages from Holy Scriptures*

OBEDIENCE

HUMILITY - PART 2
1 SAMUEL 15-16

GOD TOUCHED ME

GOD WRITES STRAIGHT WITH CROOKED LINES

By Glecly Mananzan Rosario, a devotee

You have not chosen me but I have chosen you.

John 15:16

The popular sayings regarding the way we assess a person's worth or unworthiness, which are the following:

*"Don't judge a book by its cover" or
"Appearances are deceiving"*

are very aptly applicable when we are in the company of Victor Araneta for the first time.

We could also apply to him another statement from a certain theologian, who being human, attributes human appraisal to God's actions in His relationships with His creatures, i.e., *"God is a Joker indeed!"* As examples: In the Old Testament, God chose Moses who could not speak much less threaten Pharaoh, the most powerful man during his time, to free the Israelites or else!!!

In the New Testament, another example of God's holy joke is how Jesus Christ himself chose uneducated fishermen instead of Sadducees, the learned lawyers at that time, and the Pharisees who were not only religious but also political leaders serving as advocates for the people.

Jesus sent them two by two without any provisions except the clothes on their back to preach and evangelize the whole world by living and doing exactly what He did while He was with them. He gave them the gifts of wisdom and healing in order to leave everyone to eternal life of happiness in heaven, which He has proven its existence when He resurrected from the dead after His passion and death.

Just like the apostles, Victor is a chosen one of God! He may give you an impression of an "upstart, in your face" kind of guy; ready to sarcastically repartee with your precious opinion on

any subject matter. After being with us for some time, you will realize that he is completely the opposite of his beloved spouse, Alice. She is the most gracious, welcoming and patient wife and mother that I have ever met. God knew that Victor will need her to carry out his God directly given Mission.

In spite of his stand offish personality, fortunately for both you and me, he, like, Moses of the Old Testament and the Apostles of Jesus Christ in the New Testament, Victor is the Chosen One of God Himself. In fact, God gave him the title: Son, Helper of God. Just like the chosen ones of both the Old Testament and the New Testament, Victor had to undergo tremendous, excruciating trials, physically, emotionally and spiritually before God bestowed on him the gifts of healing, praying over and direct communication with God like a conduit) to relay to us our needs and the answers to our queries with regard to our daily relationship with God which is a gift called locution.

He is so privileged that he chit chats with God daily at the most ungodly hours from 11:00 p.m. to 3:00 or 4:00 a.m.

In conclusion, you don't have to look holy or act holy in order to be used or chosen by God. Just look at Victor. All you have to do is LOVE GOD NO MATTER WHAT STATE YOU ARE IN! ☐

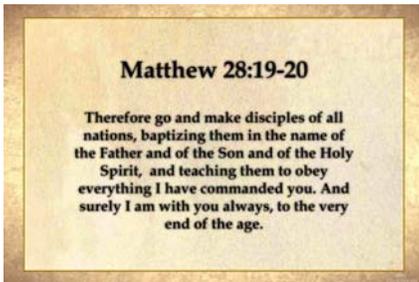
Editor's note: This article was a tribute to Victor Araneta by Glecly Rosario on the occasion of Victor's 65th birthday celebration. Glecly is one of the pioneer members of The Spiritual Army of God the Father. She has joined the Ministry on July 13, 2006.

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

SEEKING INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS THROUGH THE BIBLE

GIVE IT AWAY

by Victor H. Araneta



God never gives us anything to keep for ourselves. Whether it is money, insight, or truth, it has to be shared. Jesus very clearly let His disciples know that the truth He had taught them during the past three years was not to be kept in a personal reservoir of knowledge. They were to give away everything they had received. In our acts of discipleship, we

ask the Lord to make us not bunkers of truth and graces but dispensers of His blessed examples that will show others His face through our loving words and actions. ☐

*The message of Jesus
on how we will pray on Thanksgiving Day:*

*Lord God Almighty,
we thank you for all the blessings,
graces you have bestowed on us.*

*Let this be the day of love and gratitude for all the
provisions you have given for our families,
friends and all the individuals around us.*

*Also, for the good health that strengthens
our body, mind, and spirit. And most of all,*

*our FAITH that binds us as one
glorifying YOU, OUR ALMIGHTY GOD
in MY (Jesus) name, we pray, Amen.*

Jesus of Nazareth, Your Loving God and Savior
11162019

PROJECTS OF THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER

THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD
THE FATHER IN LOS ANGELES
AND LAS VEGAS HAVE BEEN
ACTIVELY CONTINUING AND
INITIATING PROJECTS AS
FOLLOWS:

1. TOY DRIVE FOR THE LOS ANGELES CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL – ONGOING
2. FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO:
 - MICHAEL BALUYOT – 2ND YEAR COLLEGE STUDENT AT JOSE RIZAL UNIVERSITY, METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES
 - JOSHUA JARABEJO – SEMINARIAN AT OUR LADY OF PENAFRANCIA SEMINARY IN THE DIOCESE OF SORSOGON, PHILIPPINES
3. ST. SHARBEL MARONITE CHURCH, LAS VEGAS – INSTALLATION OF GOD THE FATHER PICTURE ON THE WALL OF THE CHURCH – ONGOING
4. ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CATHOLIC CHURCH LAS VEGAS - FUNDS TO SUPPORT ANNUAL CHURCH FESTIVAL

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ADVENT: LEARNING TO WAIT

Hope is what fueled their courage: hope for the coming of the Messiah, hope for the fulfillment of all of God's promises. In the book of Lamentations we read: I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. (Lamentations 3:19-26, NIV)

The season of Advent is about waiting. As we live on this side of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, it's easy for us to distance ourselves from the Israelites. We know that the promised Messiah came. With the angels we sing "Glory to God in the highest!" We live in the light of the Incarnation.

But in a needful and powerful way, Advent links our hearts to the hearts of God's people who longed for the coming of the Savior. As we survey the carnage of a world wracked with sin, we pine for the second coming of the Savior, when everything wrong will be set right.

We watch. We wait. We long for the day when all will be well. Even now we run on the fuel of hope. And like always, hope comes from the same source. The Lord's mercies are still new every morning. He is eternally good to those whose hope is in him.

From this hope we take courage. This Advent season, let's encourage one another. Perhaps these words of Paul's could be our prayer for each other: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13, NIV)

God, help us to wait with the sure knowledge of your steadfast love. ☐

Richella Parham is a writer, speaker, and the author of A Spiritual Formation Primer. She serves as vice-chair on the board of directors at Renovaré, and she is also the worship coordinator at The Gathering Church and a member of the Redbud Writers Guild. Richella lives in Durham, North Carolina, with her husband, Jack.



The meaning of the Yuletide season is reflected in the name

Emmanuel, God is with us.

On this joyous occasion, we, the newsletter staff, wish you an abundance of love, peace, joy, good health and prosperity now and always.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!!!

Evelyn, Alice & Victor