

They wanted to arrest Jesus, but he eluded them. Jn. 10:31-42

Magandang umaga po sa inyong muli. Ten years ago when I was first assigned here in Manaoag itong lugar na ito ay punong-puno lagi hindi lang Linggo hindi lang Sabado hindi lang Biyernes o mga fiesta but on a regular basis napupuno po ito. And during the time the vendors are also inside and not only sometimes not only within the complex inside the complex sometimes inside even the church and because of that eh lagi po kaming nakakatanggap ng complain about pilgrims being harassed. Pagpasok pa lang daw nila dito eh sinasabitan na sila ng medalya kapag daw hindi nila binili, tinatakot pa mamalasin kapag-uwi mo.

So we would received those kind of complaints from people on a regular basis at nung napundi na at napuno na yung community we had a meeting and then the community decided can we ask them to do their selling and buying outside of the church complex. Napalunok po ako noon sapagkat alam ko na ako yung kanilang itotoka na gawin yun at ako po yung kinuyog eh yung messenger kasi lagi naman ang tawag nito you shoot the messenger not the message noh. But we did that it was challenging it was difficult but eventually we were able to ask them to do their wares outside and I fully understand where they're coming from sapagkat ang takot nila ay kapag ka na sa labas na baka wala nang bumili at sikmura na yung matatamaan. But I, our assurance is that if the pilgrims are given an opportunity to simply pray and afterwards makakapamilya pa sila ng tupig, ng rosaryo, ng kandila, ng walis tambo at ang kung ano man and the're happy and going to leave Manaoag at yung Shrine ng Minor Basilica ng maluwag, nakapagdasal noh.

I remembered that because of the gospel that we read today. The gospel opened with the sentence pumulot na ng bato ang mga Judio at kapag pumulot ka na ng bato sa harap ng iyong tinitingnan kaaway aanhin mo ba yung bato na yun edi di ibabato. But before they were able to do that, Jesus was able to ask the question, I did you many good works at alin doon sa mga good works na yon on account of that good works are you stoning me? And the Jews answered "No we're not stoning you for your good works we're stoning for blasphemy and after I read that passage sabi ko totoo nga kaya for blasphemy or there are other reasons why they're so afraid and angry at the Lord. Maaaring oo maaaring iba pang dahilan perhaps it is because Jesus was introducing something new something unsettling, something that will affect their views and Jesus is introducing a teaching that challenges their long cherish pananaw at paniniwala. Not only those who are in power or in position but actually to everybody there. His teachings goes against the grain of the social order so to speak, so when people ay sanay ng pagsilbihan ito ang ating Panginoon sasabihin at maririnig mo doon sa tao sa ating Panginoon ay did not come to be served but to served at di ba unsettling yun eh tuwang-tuwa ka na sana e comfortable ka na napagsilbihan and yet the Messiah will come I did not come to be served but to served eh nandoon ka sa harap at pinagsilbihan unsettling noh.

Isa pa in a society where the pecking order is sacred, una, pangalawa, pangatlo, si boss, si assistant boss, si ganitong posisyon at yung mababang posisyon the pecking order ay nakalagay in its sacred it will be unsettling for how man to say that my kingdom is not here but my kingdom is something that is beyond lalong lalo naman doon sa mga nag simula ng political dynasty. Sunod-sunod tapos na sila, heto na naman yung ilalagay si kapatid, asawa, si pinsan lahat na noh. And yet maririnig mo ang Panginoon na, everything will end di ba unsettling among sinabi netong taong ito.

Everything is ok now and yet you're saying something that is subversive and that's the reason why I believed that it is not for blasphemy that the Lord was will be stoned. It is for something that is saying that it is unsettling niyuyugyog yung tao sa kanilang comfort zone. And all people are really indeed afraid of change, but some are more afraid of these change when their comfortable disposition is challenge. Alam ninyo kaming mga Dominicans, sa simula pa lang ng profession namin meron nabuo sa aming tinuro na always be ready to be moved from one from one assignment to the other.

Nung bata bata ka pa ang dali niyan eh, go to the mission go, to study, study go to school go to school habang tumatanda kami medyo nahihirapan na rin ang mga pinuno namin na hablutin kami at ilipat sa mga lugar lugar na kung saan kami kailangan. Challenging yun eh bakit because have grown comfortable in our positions and the perks sometimes of those positions we have grown comfortable at kapagka merong nag-iintroduced ng pagbabago eh nakakatakot yan. Tried and tested na meron nga po tayong kasabihan when it ain't broke why introduce change. Guguluhin mo lang and the Lord in our gospel was not prepared to do his job to preach what is true. To try to put some order in the things na nakikita niya na magulo. And I'm very sure in the minds and hearts ng ating Panginoon nauunawaan niya yung difficulty ng mga tao na pagsunod, nauunawaan din niya yung fear at kapagka kinapitan ka na ng takot anong gagawin ko doon pagka pinalabas kami dito sa Basilica wala ng makain ang aming mga anak kapagka tawag neto na wala na ako sa posisyon ano nang gagawin ko, unsettling diba? And you know my dear friends na pagka ganun ang aking nagiging disposisyon it also shows the amount of faith that we have in our Lord.

Sa maraming pagkakataon niyugyog tayo, sa maraming pagkakataon tinitest yung pananampalataya natin mahal mo ba talaga baka fair weather love lang yan. Best friend lang ba baka in good times in good times lang yan nawala na yung bad times and so we are always put in that kind of situation not simply to test us but to make our love more burning and to solidify.

Ganun naman po pinatatatag yung ating mga paniniwala diba ano? Kapag may pinagdaan ka na mga pagsubok lumalalim eh, parang retreat ko nga po sa mga Madre na mga senior na, sabi ko turo sa amin na kapagka ikaw ay humarap na sa Panginoon at tiningnan yung puso mo at kapag walang peklat sasabihin ano bang ginawa mo hindi ka man lang dumaaan sa mga pagsubok? Our good professor always remind us that the one who has a beautiful heart is the one who has the most scars. Marami ng pinagdaanan, mga umibig na dito sa inyo at nasawi, na disappoint, na prostrate, has a scar in our hearts. But look at us we're still standing diba? Nakatayo pa rin tayo, grasya ng Panginoon so when our Lord would shake us from our tried, and tested from your comfort zone make no mistake about it He also gives us the grace to be able to adapt and to understand that there is a reason for this stage. Wag matakot sa pagbabago, anong ginawa ng Panginoon? He was not accepted there, sarado pa yung pag-iisip ng mga tao, and yet it does not stop Him to preach. But what He did? He moved out of that group, cross the river to where John was baptizing and there he sting why? Because people were willing to listen to Him. Ang ganda nga po yung sinabi doon sa ibanghelo you know yung comment ng ibang tao, John performed no sign, but everything John said about this man was true and the last sentence is, and many there begun to believe in Him.

Hindi all lagi na matutuwa sa inyo, sa atin, kapag ka merong pinapatupad na bago. Hindi lahat ay pupurihin ka, hindi rin lahat ay ipagbubunyi yung mga pagbabago na yun. Naiintindihan natin iyon sapagkat may mga kanya-kanyang interes na maaaring masaling but you know and in the group and the people na merong ganun meron din po at mas nakakarami ang

nakakaunawa na these changes are not only necessary but actually good. Not just for the church not just for the Basilica but actually for all of us. Huwag matakot kapagka may bago, huwag matakot kapag chinachallenge yung mga pananampalataya natin sapagkat it forces us to think, it forces us to open our minds. Let me end this sharing with the story. Teacher din po ako, ki elementary, high school or graduate school ang simula na ng klase sa mga katoliko dito sa mga nagtuturo pagbibigay ng work class In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit matik yan pag pasok mo. Magulo pa nga yung mga bata eh papasok ng teacher In the name of Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit pagkatapos nun one time I was given an opportunity to teach outside of the country, nagsubstitute, buntis yung isang teacher so I was asked to substitute, I was so excited noh and then in front of the class I was about to begin the class within in the Name at nakita ko merong may hijab, nakita ko yung isang estudyante ko merong Budist monk and it dawned on me, na hindi lang, hindi lahat ng tao katoliko. And it forced me and it allowed me na mas lawakan yung pananaw.

It helped a lot, because it breaks your biases and it also makes you more tolerant. My dears friends many people will not be able to understand us, but remember the last part of the gospel, and many there begin to believe in you.

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