

## **GROWING IN RELATIONSHIP AND INTIMACY WITH CHRIST**

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

By: Fr. Charles Lueras

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Growing in relationship and intimacy with Christ, Fr. Charles Lueras cited that the world we live in is full of darkness, destruction and sin. However, we are fortunate that we have our Lord God who shed light on humanity by way of forgiveness and compassion. According to his testimony, when he was nineteen (19) years old he was empty and sad because he was away from God. The emptiness was a wake-up call for Fr. Charles who realized that the Lord wanted to be with him. He added that the fundamental human existence is to establish a closer intimate relationship with the Lord through praying, reading the Bible and imitating Jesus Christ.

### **1. The fundamental call is to respond to the call of St. Paul: "Imitate me, then, just as I imitate Christ"**

(1 Cor. 11:1). This is the way of Christ, the way of forgiving, giving and sharing His words. Hence, we should become more familiar with our Lord, the Church and the Scriptures.

### **2. To imitate St. Paul and our Lord Jesus Christ, we must follow His instructions and His examples.**

To be closer to the Lord we must go to confession, participate in the sacraments and be a member of the Mystical Body of Christ. Our Bible has been designed to guide us to our final destination which is heaven. There are 1.5 billion Catholics who should live a sacramental life bearing in mind the commandments of Jesus to love one another and to open our hearts to listen to His words. As an additional guide, Fr. Lueras stated the acronym of the word "Bible":

- B – Basic
- I - Instructions
- B – Before
- L – Leaving on
- E - Earth

We have already been saved since Jesus died on the cross for us. However, we need to do our part.

The key to redemption and salvation is to pray and the meaning of PRAYER is:

- P – Priority
- R – Regularly with
- A – Attention and Affection
- Y – Yes to the Book of God
- E – (its goal is) Eternity
- R- (always pray with) Reverence and Respect

### **Conclusion:**

We should never be distracted by the Devil and the darkness that envelopes the world. All these distractions, temptations, darkness and sins are wakeup calls from our Creator, and it is time to go back to God. Fr. Lueras testimony is a manifestation of God's outpouring of grace and love. He felt the Holy Spirit from within. What happened to him can happen to everyone. For our salvation, we need to pray and to stay closely connected through our matured relationship with the Lord. Our life is all about imitating Jesus for us to enter heaven and live an everlasting life with Him.

### **Reflection:**

1. Do you experience encountering Jesus during the course of your transformation?
1. Do you have a life changing moment with Him?
2. How deep is your relationship with Jesus?
3. Does praying and reading the Bible work for you?

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