

A Glimpse of Jesus Here on Earth

Then he answered the messengers, Go back and tell John what you saw and heard: the blind see again, the lame walk, lepers are made clean, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the poor are given good news. Luke 7:22

It was an event like no other. Memorable, inspiring, amazing, awesome - these are words that come to mind in describing the event. But for many who were there, these words may even fall short. The Healing Mass and Session of Fr. Fernando Suarez last Wednesday, September 13, 2006 will not only be etched in our minds but will also be enshrined in our hearts.

Seeing the thousands of people that came to be healed, the many miracles that manifested one after another, and the tremendous surge of love that flowed throughout the place, brings to mind the thought that this must have been the experience of people when Jesus was still here on earth!

Two big sections of the Megatrade Hall at the 5th floor of Megamall were jam-packed and overflowed with people. Outside, the long line of human bodies snaked all the way from the 5th floor down to the ground floor! It was amazing to see people patiently waiting and staying from the early afternoon up to the wee hours of the next day! When Jesus performed the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fish, they fed about five thousand men not counting women and children (Matt. 14:21). All in all, there must have easily been fifteen thousand people following Jesus all day long!

Why did so many people follow Jesus and why do so many people go to the healing sessions of Fr. Fernando who heals in the name of Jesus? One of our brothers made a very insightful remark. He said, "We all need healing because we are all "sick". People may appear healthy on the outside, but may be suffering in the inside." Rick Warren, author of the Purpose Driven Life, says, "Our world is filled with lonely people who are starving for the affirmation of a loving touch." Our Lord Jesus not only met this very deep need of people for healing but He also gave them His loving touch. This He continues to do up to the present through His instruments like Fr. Fernando. It must have been the way Jesus related with people - the way Fr. Fernando laid hands, put his arms around people, and warmly hugged them.

Jesus is divine but He was also fully human. Perhaps this is the reason why He had to go to a mountain at times. He went there not only to pray and commune with His Father but also to rest and recharge His human body in the arms of Mother Nature. Fr. Fernando had no mountain to go to but every now and then he had to take a seat, drink some water, and rest while some brothers took turns massaging his legs and shoulders. It was so amazing to see him appear and walk like a drunken man in one moment but suddenly become recharged and energetic in the next. It was quite evident that it was only the Spirit of God that kept him going.

Jesus had a very soft spot in His heart for the small children. In fact, He said, "Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." (Mark 10:15). Fr. Fernando seems to have the same soft spot. During his healing session, he did something unusual that surprised and amazed people. He took a small child from its mother, carried the child in his arms and used the hand of the child to anoint the people. It was an amazing sight to behold the long line of people falling in rapid succession like dominoes upon the touch of the child's hand! Truly, what power purity and innocence have! It is not exactly written in the Scriptures but it wouldn't be surprising if Jesus also used the powerful healing touch of children.

Jesus taught in simple, practical ways, often using a story or a parable to drive home His message. His words were simple but they were life-giving and transforming. Fr. Fernando has his own simple and often humorous stories to tell. Like Jesus, the Master, his words talked to the heart. Like Jesus, his message is consistent: God is Faithful to His Promise, He is With Us Always, and He Loves Us Very Much. Like Jesus, he brings the Healing and Loving Touch of God.

Such an experience, such an encounter with His most Powerful yet Sweet Presence leaves us with one overwhelming feeling: AWE. For those who were present, especially all the ones who served with Fr. Fernando, there were a lot of aching feet, sore arms and shoulders, strained backs and tempers, and grumbling stomachs but you can be sure that hearts were light and spirits were soaring. Never have there been so many "Praise God" and "Thank you, Lord" uttered. And as we store this sweet memory in our minds and hearts, we say, Thank you, Jesus. It's good to know that You never really left us after all.

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