



God indeed works mysteriously with his own uniqueness

(Santhosh Thottankara Ouseph, SS.CC.)

As I reflect back on my life's journey during the past few years, I am very much convinced that no matter what the church or the writings of great individuals say: GOD IS STILL BEYOND HUMAN COMPREHENSION. My life is tangible evidence of this statement, a living testimony based on the things that transpired; characterizing the uniqueness and mystery of my experiences. The results made me humble, loving and forgiving. As I look back from the beginning of my call, to the religious priesthood, to my present life in the Congregation; it is not at all what I expected. God has walked with me in a very unique fashion that brought me to places I have never imagined: my travel to Manila to study and to work as a missionary brought beautiful and challenging experiences that left remarkable imprints in me. I have been formed and reformed; moulded and remoulded by God's own hands which then again made me a humble and simple religious of the Sacred Hearts, who has nothing to claim but simply to acknowledge and to express THANK YOU GOD FOR YOUR MARVELOUS LOVE TO THIS UNWORTHY CREATURE WHO REMAINS STEADFAST IN YOUR LOVE.

Wonderfully amazing things happened in my life when he took me, his unworthy servant, on His wings, and fully held me by His hands to be an ordained minister of His Church on the very day that He took Pope John Paul II to join Him in His Kingdom. From then on, my life began another chapter of journeying in total trust and confidence in God's unfathomable love.

Looking back over five years in Manila as a formator and a student, not knowing how to begin, I completely surrendered myself and my life into His hands. I allowed Him to be present and to continually guide me as I designed and implemented the pre-novitiate program. I strongly acknowledge that I drew strength from the Blessed Eucharist, the support of my formators, priests and lay people in our universal Church. All this made me realize that I have grown in His love as a religious of the Sacred Hearts through these collective hands, but most especially through God, the agent of love and reconciliation

And to the leaders of my congregation, I am grateful, for putting their trust and confidence in me, for having encouraged me to venture into the unfamiliar life of a religious missionary-priest when they sent me to Brazil. I considered it an exceptional and memorable journey to my dream mission land, BRAZIL. There I witnessed the beatification of our holy brother, Eustaquio. The experience was so unique that I feel in the core of my being that I have been transformed to a greatly enriched and renewed person; I could shout it to the world at the top of my lungs and be proud that I have a holy brother who will readily be there to help me and others. This, along with my priestly ordination, is one of the most outstanding wellsprings of my life. God claims me in his love; this has proven true in many

occasions of my life. The latest evidence of this was when I asked my community of students to pray for the clearance of our land, and it has been achieved since I arrived in Bangalore. God is answering their prayers through Blessed Eustaquio and beautiful things are already unfolding for the foundation of the SS.CC. Community in Bangalore.

Blessed Eustaquio has closely walked with me and I will always be proud to proclaim his great power of intercession to anybody who comes to seek for God's hands. Last September 3, 2010, was a day of awe and wonder for me as I hurriedly left Fairhaven, Massachusetts to avoid a powerful hurricane striking that land. Again through the miraculous intercession of Blessed Eustaquio I was able to leave and arrive safely on the beautiful land of Manila where the people waited to experience his intercessory healing power of prayer. My friends in Manila had been preparing for this Healing Mass as early as July, 2010 when they thought of coming out with the first ever English printed Blessed Eustaquio Prayer bookmark that would be distributed on the occasion that would mark the beginning of the propagation of Blessed Eustaquio in the Philippines. I, too, prepared myself for this great healing day, September 6, 2010. When that most important day arrived as people gathered to witness and to experience the moment of reaffirmation of his closeness to us all, healing grace flowed. People who attended the Healing Mass experienced renewal in their faith in Jesus. People present from all walks of life were renewed in their faith and were full-spirited as they asked for more of the blessed bookmarks to bring home and to share the good news of the powerful intercessor. The Healing Mass experience was very unique as I encountered a call within my call as a priest. And here again, awe and wonder covered me when people came and declared "what a powerful healing mass" and affirmed that they felt the hand of God touching them while they were being anointed. I claim "no credit" as I was very much aware that I am just a simple minister of God's love; there is nothing great about me but I can only say: "YES, THIS IS THE REASON GOD HAS MADE ME, TO SERVE." I can say that I was proud because I believe in His power. The people claimed the healing mass was a great moment of peace as God manifested Himself by calling weak and unworthy people. I will continue to be used as God wishes to fashion me as He sees.... as a healer, as a formator, or simply as a minister of the sacraments.

As I was returning to Bangalore, India, I had lots of mixed feelings about taking charge of the pre-novitiate cum candidacy programs and hesitancy in being part of the Regional Council. I know that it will entail lots of hard work in preparation for the many meetings that I will have to attend.

Ultimate as it may seem, I was brought to a TOTAL SURRENDER and humbled before My Savior, and My God: the true source of life and sustenance in our life of service and charity. I heard His voice reverberating in my ears and in my heart, "DO NOT BE AFRAID: I AM WITH YOU; I LOVE YOU AND USE YOU."

May I ask all of you to please continue to support and to pray for me as I go into a new chapter of my journey through life.

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