**The Eucharist: I Serve, He Saves**

*Fr Louis Fowóyò̩*

There is no one who encountered Jesus while on earth that did not receive a good benefit from Him. As a result of the graces of life received, He attracted people to Himself.

* The people we read about in the Bible today who were of great service to the Lord, were ordinary people like us.
* If we look only at their transformation after they met Jesus, they will not be model for us. They became giants of faith because they gave themselves perseveringly to the Lord.
* God chose us before we were born, so that He can transform us even in the midst of the corrupted life environment that we live in now. All He wants from us is the courage to serve Him.

The world we live in can speak discouraging words to our ears when we intend to serve the Lord. But we have to also listen more to the inspiring voice whispering courage in our ears.

* If you think that you have problems with doubts, or struggle with being obedient, you are in good hands with the Lord because we have examples among those who walked with Jesus in His own day.
* If the Lord looks at the nature of Peter, who will always jump into action before thinking, He would not make him an apostle not to talk of been the head. When the ‘jumping’ Peter was rescued from sinking when he attempted to walk on water, I can almost see the others laughing at him (Matthew 14:28-31). Peter in his wet dress will say to them: “Hellooo, I tried and failed, but what about you?”
* When Mary Magdalene anointed the feet of Jesus with costly ointment (Luke 7:36-50), we heard the disciples’ comments. If Mary were allowed to respond to their comment, she would have said to them: “If you guys know how cold it is to be tormented by evil spirit, you will pay any price to enjoy the peace of mind that I am enjoying after healing. You will do more than I am doing now”.
* The courage of Veronica was rewarded with the TRUE IMAGE of Jesus. 2000 years ago, Jesus snapped His selfie (self-portrait) and gave to Veronica (this is celebrated in the 6th Station of the Cross). That was why she displayed it to all to see.
* In the face of the hefty crowd and ferocious nature of the soldier executioners of Jesus, it would have been difficult for Simon of Cyrene to refuse to help Jesus. But the good side of the story is that he and his family became converted and there is even an allusion to the name of one of the children in Romans 16:13.
* When Joseph of Arimathea gave his tomb to Jesus, I can almost hear some of his wealthy friends berating him for giving such an expensive gift. I am sure Joseph would have looked back and said to them: “Don’t worry friends, He only needs it for the weekend.”
* The Shroud of Turin is the burial cloth of Jesus. The world wants us to believe that it is fake. In recent times, the Catholic Church has allowed many scientists to research into the material. Their results have shown phenomenal truth about the authenticity of the material.
* David Rolfe: is issuing a challenge worth $1m to those who can prove that the shroud is forgery. “If they believe the shroud is medieval forgery, I call on them to repeat the exercise and create something similar today. Because from all the evidence I have seen, if this is a forgery it’s the most ingenious forgery in history…”

My dear sisters and brothers, Easter is real. When we serve the Lord, He will save us. That is why Jesus came into our world.

* The resurrection is the basis for our faith. It is the guarantee of our own resurrection.
* Easter gives us hope and encouragement in this world of pain, sorrows, tears and hopelessness. In the Bible, Jesus Himself testifies to it.
* We are the resurrected people. We are the hope of the world. The Eucharist is our source of renewal. The Eucharist is our Life in the Spirit.