

3rd Sunday of Advent - December 15, 2024  
Homily by Bp. Romie- Jun Peñalosa

Again, happy Gaudete Sunday.  
Amen. So, hindi pa tayo sanay, hindi masyado natin hinahighlight yung Gaudete.  
But you see, even long before,  
nagsa-celebrate tayo ng Advent,  
napapansin n'yo na kakaiba talaga yung kulay ng kandilang ito.  
Amen?

It highlights the season of Advent.  
It marks that we are already past sa kalahati ng Advent.  
Okay?

In Lent, sa kwarisma,  
we also have what we call the Laetare Sunday.  
It's a Sunday of joy.

Okay?  
Yes, it is a penitential season,  
but you see,  
God, He will always put something in our path  
that would remind us of the joy that we have in our life.  
I've always said this,  
Joy is a gift of God.

Amen?  
Tell the person beside you,  
Joy is God's gift to you.  
Kaya pag sinabi na ng isang tao na,  
Wala na akong joy sa buhay ko,  
that's not true.

Amen?  
Rigalo yan ng Diyos.  
Hindi pwedeng bawiin yan.  
Bigay ng Diyos sa'yo yan.  
Joy is a gift,  
but happiness and gladness.

Okay?  
Happiness and gladness.  
Yan ang ating response  
sa joy na binigay ng Diyos sa atin.  
And so,  
happiness and gladness is a choice.  
Amen?

You decide.  
God gave us joy.  
It is a gift.  
But to be happy in life,  
it's your choice.

Amen?  
You either draw from inside,  
from the joy that is within you,  
para maging masaya ang buhay mo,  
hindi ka malungkot,  
that you will serve the Lord.  
The Scripture says that if we're going to serve God,  
serve Him with gladness.  
Hindi ka nalulungkot na naninilbihan sa Diyos.  
You are not sad and sorrowful  
when you are serving God.  
Why? Because you draw from that  
gift that God has given you.

Amen? Regalo kasi yan.  
But the problem is,  
we don't know how to look inside our hearts.  
We don't know how to draw,  
okay,

from that joy,  
that rich deposit of joy  
that God has placed in your hearts.  
We tend to look at circumstances.  
We base our happiness,  
we base gladness on the things around us.  
Joy is something that cannot be taken.  
Joy is not something that be controlled by the world.  
Joy is something that God has placed within you.  
That's why our second reading today teaches us  
that to rejoice in the Lord  
is a commandment.

Amen?

Inuutos ng Diyos yan.  
And for some people,  
how can you command someone who has not control?  
You know?

Pakit pwedeng iutos yan to rejoice?  
It can be commanded to us  
because we have a choice  
whether we look inside  
and focus on the gift that God has given you  
or you can look at the things around you,  
look at the circumstances,  
look at the problems you're facing in life  
and be miserable.

Nasa sayo yan.

That's why gaudete means rejoice.

Yan ang ibig sabihin ng God.

Gaudete, rejoice.

It's an action word.

It's a command that God gives to us.

Rejoice.

At sabi niya dito sa second reading natin,

Rejoice in the Lord always.

I will say it again, rejoice.

He said it twice.

The Scripture says that  
the joy of the Lord is our strength  
and if we do not know how to live

by that joy in us,

mawawalan tayo ng lakas.

Manghihina ang loob natin.

Okay?

We have responsibilities in life.

Sa mga magulang,  
you have responsibilities  
to take care of your family.

Sa mga leaders ng simbahan,  
you have a responsibility  
to take care of the flock  
that God has assigned to you.

When I say take care of them,  
you have to feed them.

Amen?

You have to teach them  
and even sometimes discipline them.  
And it takes a lot of strength to do that.

Amen?

Hindi basta-basta magulang ka,  
meron kang mga anak,  
aalagaan mo sila,  
and to take care of them,  
you have to lead them in the right path.

You have to guide your children.  
You're not just putting food on the table,  
but you have to guide them,  
you have to feed them spiritually as well.  
You have to inspire your children.  
You know?  
Hindi mo papagalitan palagi.  
Ano, magsimba kayo.  
Magsimba kayo.  
Go to church.  
You have to go to church.  
Leader paan naman ako ng church.  
Nakakaya.  
Yung mga anak ko hindi nagsisimba.  
Don't do that to your children.  
Kung pupunta yung mga anak mo sa simbahan,  
hindi dahil leader ka ng simbahan.  
If they come to church,  
they have to come to church  
because they are inspired to meet Jesus.  
Why are they inspired?  
Because the parents provide the inspiration.  
It takes a lot of joy to do that.  
The joy of the Lord is our strength.  
If we're going to go out in mission,  
we go out in joy.  
We go out not in sadness,  
not in sorrow,  
not in, you know, burdensome labor.  
When we go out in mission  
and spread the gospel  
and tell people about the love of God,  
you have to do it with joy.  
Joy should be evident in your life.  
Joy should come out  
and bubble up in your life  
wherever you go.  
You don't even have to use your mouth  
when people see the joy  
coming out of your life.  
Now, the joy that I'm talking to you about,  
this is not a feeling.  
This is not a feeling of elation.  
Sometimes, it's not there.  
You know?  
There are times that we do the work of God.  
We are not elated.  
We don't have the feeling of, you know,  
that feeling of being thrilled  
and happy.  
No, I'm not talking about that.  
The joy which I'm talking about  
is something that is embedded  
deep in your heart.  
The joy that you have  
is a joy that makes you committed  
to the task that God has given you.  
That is the joy of a mother  
who, even though she's tired,  
wakes up in the morning  
and cooks breakfast for her children.  
Now, she's not enjoying that.  
At times, the mother is very tired.  
The mother is very, very tired.

It's the same with the father.  
The father, he works every day.  
He goes to the office.  
He goes to the workplace every day.  
He comes home very tired.  
But in the morning, he wakes up again  
and works again.  
It's like a farmer  
who wakes up early in the morning  
to go to the farm  
and take care of the land.  
Day in, day out.  
There's no rest.  
That commitment, you see,  
is fueled by the joy that you have.  
That's why God is teaching us now,  
God is telling us now,  
you know, you have to  
bring out that joy inside you.  
Focus your mind on those things  
inside you.  
Okay?  
Now, our first reading today,  
Zephaniah the prophet  
was telling the people,  
we should rejoice.  
Ang daming hinaharap nilang problema.  
They were facing so many problems  
as a nation.  
But Zephaniah is telling them,  
we should rejoice.  
For what reason?  
Because the Lord is in our midst.  
Amen?  
That's the reason why.  
If the Lord is in your midst,  
this is what Zephaniah is saying,  
He will make you win over your enemies.  
He will restore  
everything that has been taken away from you.  
Are there things that are lost in your life?  
That are important in your life?  
If you have been taken captive,  
said Zephaniah to the Israelites,  
Amen?  
That is our first reading.  
Go back to the Lord.  
Amen?  
Go back to the Lord.  
If you repent,  
God will restore you.  
God will restore the things  
that you may have lost in your life  
because of our foolishness sometimes.  
If you repent.  
If you repent,  
God will restore you.  
You see,  
our gospel speaks of the fruit of repentance.  
John the Baptist said,  
you will go here and there  
and you will be baptized.  
But you continue in your sin.  
And John the Baptist tells them,

repent.  
Repent.  
For the kingdom of God is here.  
Just like Zephaniah,  
rejoice.  
Repent.  
Why?  
Because God is in our midst.  
We are not left alone  
to fend for ourselves.  
Although sometimes it would feel  
that you are alone  
and you are facing your problems.  
But you are never alone.  
There are times that God may back off for a while  
to see and test you  
and strengthen your character.  
But He does not abandon you.  
God is always watching over you.  
Amen.  
He watches over you.  
There were testings and trials  
will come in your life,  
but the Lord will see to it  
that you will not be tested  
beyond what you can bear.  
He will not give you a trial  
that you cannot bear.  
So if your trial is heavy  
that you are facing in life today,  
it means that God has seen that you can bear it.  
You, have you seen that you can bear it?  
Not yet.  
Amen.  
So if you repent,  
the Lord will restore you.  
Our second reading, again,  
St. Paul was telling the church,  
rejoice.  
You know, they are facing persecutions.  
The early church had a lot of problems.  
They confiscated their properties.  
They are not allowed to do things  
because they are Christians.  
Some of them are murdered.  
Some of them are being killed for their faith.  
They are persecuted.  
But Paul said,  
rejoice in the Lord.  
What is this? Is this crazy?  
Didn't he see what I am going through?  
How can he tell me to rejoice?  
How can he command me to rejoice?  
And St. Paul said,  
because the Lord is near.  
God is not far from you.  
God is very near.  
Amen.  
The Lord is closer than your breath, he said.  
The Lord is close to you,  
just like your breath.  
God is very near to you.  
And that's the reason,  
that is the cause for us to rejoice in our life.

Joy,  
joy is the fruit of repentance.  
When we repent,  
when we repent,  
God restores us.  
He protects us.  
He defends us.  
He overtakes us with His blessings.  
He favors us every time we repent.  
And that is the cause of our joy.  
That is where we look,  
not in circumstances.  
Amen.  
Now, I would like you to ask this question in your life today.  
Ask yourself.  
This is a deep question,  
but it's Advent.  
Our questions should be deep.  
Not like, what will I eat later?  
What shoes will I wear tomorrow?  
That's shallow.  
That will not solve the problem.  
Ask the deep questions  
because the answer is in your heart.  
If you repent, God will restore you.  
That's my question.  
Why is God not restoring me?  
Hello?  
Why is God not restoring me?  
Because He said, if you repent, I will restore you.  
So how come God is not restoring me?  
There are things in my life that has been lost  
and I don't see them restored in my life.  
There are things in my life that I need restoration.  
There are things that I want to fix in my life.  
There are things that are ruined in my life.  
Why God is not fixing it?  
And it is the question of repentance.  
It is not a question of God's willingness.  
It is not a question that,  
does God favor someone?  
It's a good thing that others give, but not me.  
Does God favor someone? No.  
What God wills for one, He wills for everyone.  
Then how come I am not being restored?  
It's not a question of God's will and God's love for us.  
It's a question of repentance.  
If you repent, you will be restored.  
The Greek text for repentance is Metanoia.  
Okay, let's remember that.  
Metanoia, that's the Greek word for repent.  
Repentance is not just about turning away from sin.  
Sometimes we think of repentance  
as just turning away from your sin.  
That's not what Metanoia means.  
Through repentance,  
Metanoia means having a change of heart.  
Pagbabago ng puso natin.  
May mga bagay sa buhay natin  
na hindi natin nakita nagbabago.  
There are people today  
who continue to live in poverty.  
Not because God wants them to be poor.  
They continue to live in poverty

because until now,  
they don't have a change of heart.  
Hindi nagbabago ang puso.  
There are people today  
who are uncommitted to their families.  
You know when you don't have a commitment,  
if you will not commit to a person,  
magiging malungkot ang buhay mo.  
May mga tao na  
ang commitment nila sa sarili lang nila.  
Mag-aasawa ka,  
you have to make that full commitment.  
Through sick and sin,  
to richer and poorer,  
whatever the circumstances may be,  
I will be there for you.  
When you make that commitment,  
that is a change of heart.  
And some people don't have that kind of heart.  
Kaya ma-miserable ang buhay,  
sinisisi palagi ang asawa.  
Ang asawa ko kasi ganito,  
ang asawa ko kasi ganito,  
kung binisisin ang asawa?  
It's your lack of commitment.  
It's your lack of commitment to your family.  
It's your lack of commitment to your work.  
It's your lack of commitment to your ministry  
and to your community.  
Repentance is not about sin only.  
It's not about turning away from sin.  
Repentance is about having a change of heart.  
Now, let's go beyond sin.  
Huwag na natin pag-usapan yung kasalanan.  
Kung Christiano ka,  
dapat mo ng talikuran ng kasalanan.  
So, hindi na natin pag-usapan yung kasalanan.  
Problema talaga yan.  
Pagpapatuloy ka sa kasalanan,  
problema talaga yan.  
Walang solusyon yan.  
Until you stop.  
But let's go beyond sin.  
Having a change of heart.  
Repentance, true repentance,  
is having a change of heart.  
Let's not talk about sin.  
Let's have a change of heart  
in our bad habits.  
Ang mga ugali.  
May tao namang palaging nakasimangot.  
Ang tanong palagi sa akin,  
masama bang magsimangot?  
Hindi naman masama.  
Hindi po kasalanan yan.  
Hindi po kasalanan yung nakasimangot.  
But that is a bad habit.  
Pagising sa umaga, nakasimangot ka na.  
Pagtanghali,  
yung itsura mo parang kabayo na.  
Ang haba na ng uso mo.  
Sa gabi,  
nako, tikbalang ang itsura mo.  
Okay?

Ang haba.  
Masama bang nakasimangot?  
Hindi naman po.  
But that is a bad habit.  
Pagising sa umaga,  
naghahanap ka ng mali.  
Naghahanap ka ng problema.  
Maghanapin ang problema.  
Ang problema,  
marunong maghanap sa'yo.  
Antayin mo lang, darating yan.  
Wag mong hanapin.  
Pagising sa umaga,  
problema ka ginahanap.  
Diba?  
That's a bad habit.  
That's not sin,  
but it's a bad habit.  
The second thing  
that we have to change our heart  
is attitude  
with a capital A.  
Attitude.  
Gali.  
May mga tao na pag kinokorek mo,  
pag sinasabihan mo,  
away.  
Away ang nasa isip.  
You know?  
Father, masama ba yan?  
Wala naman akong inaaway.  
Nasa isip ko lang.  
Yeah, that's a bad attitude.  
That's why we never learn  
because we cannot be corrected anymore.  
Sabi nga nila,  
hindi ka na pwedeng i-correct,  
matanda ka na talaga.  
Okay?  
Sino ang mga matatanda dito?  
Wala nang matanda sa atin.  
Diba? Wala na.  
Puro na bata.  
People don't want to be corrected.  
Kinagtataka ako niyan.  
There are people na kinokorek ko sa church,  
kinokorek ko,  
ayaw.  
Tapos palaging kinukulit ka,  
magiging deacon ako ng church,  
magiging deacon ako.  
Gusto mo maging deacon?  
Hindi ka paturuan.  
One time there was this deacon na nakausap ko.  
Ano? He's not a deacon.  
Sabi niya,  
Father, kung magiging deacon ako,  
I will become more obedient.  
Oo.  
Pagsuot ko na to.  
Father, pag meron na akong ganyan,  
magiging obedient ako.  
Alam mo,  
pag disobedient ka,



ganyan ang ugali mo,  
pag sinuotan ka ng collar na to,  
mas lalong magiging disobedient ka.  
This is not a guarantee  
that your attitude will change.  
Amen?

Repentance is the answer  
to wrong attitude.

Ano pa?

Huwag na kasalanan.

Huwag na tayo mag-usap tungkol sa kasalanan.  
Repentance is not just turning away from sin.  
It's all about a change of heart.

Renew your heart.

Renew your bad habits  
by creating good habits.

Renew your attitude.

And number three, this is important.

Wrong frame of mind.

Ibang pananaw.

Minsan kailangan talaga baguhin natin  
ang pananaw sa buhay.

We have a wrong frame of mind.

Kagaya ng asawa,

pag lalaki,

pag nasa labas,

te-text ng asawa,

Saan ka na?

Galit na galit yung asawa.

Pag uwi sa bay,

sabi niya,

Ikaw ha? Ikaw ha?

Hindi kita nanay.

Hindi kita nanay.

Bakit mo ako tine-text?

Saan ka na?

That's a wrong frame of mind.

Your wife is just asking you,

Saan ka na?

Ang sa isip mo,

Saan ka na?

Maling perspective.

Nag-te-text nang yung asawa mo,

Saan ka na?

Yung isip mo,

Saan ka na?

Hindi kita nanay.

Asawa kita.

Iba balukpot.

May tao one time,

lumabas ako gabi,

may tao sumandal sa gate namin,

sinandalan niya yung gate namin.

Tinignan ko,

sinilip ko yung tao,

inihian, umiihi dun sa gate namin.

So sabi ko sa kanya,

Brad,

wag mong ihian ang gate ko,

bumabaho yan eh.

Ang sabi sa akin,

Bakit? Bakit?

Away ka agad.

Diba?

Sinabi ko lang,  
bawal umihi dyan,  
away na ka agad.  
World War III ka agad.  
Ayokong patulan.  
Ayokong makipag-away.  
Pagkatapos mong umihi dyan,  
saan ang bahay mo?  
Kasi pupuntahan ko rin,  
iihian ko rin.  
Para walang away.  
Pareho lang tayo.  
Diba?  
I did not do that.  
Do you understand what I'm saying?  
You have a wrong frame of mind.  
We have to repent.  
That is why God is not restoring us.  
Because we are not having a change of heart.  
Hindi nga tayo gumagawa ng kasalanan.  
Bad attitude naman.  
Wrong frame of mind naman.  
Bad habits naman.  
We have to change that.  
Amen?  
The season of Advent calls for us  
to have a change of heart.  
Repent, sabi ni St. John,  
on the first day of Advent,  
sabi niya,  
repent,  
repent,  
for the kingdom of God is near.  
Have a change of heart.  
Produce the fruit of repentance.  
Yan sabi ni John the Baptist.  
And the people asked him,  
how can we do that?  
How can we do that in our gospel today?  
Sabi niya,  
papano naming gawin yan?  
How can we have a change of heart?  
Sabi niya,  
those who have two tunics,  
now you share and give your other tunic to someone.  
If you have an extra food,  
share your food with someone who does not have.  
What is John trying to tell them?  
To repent,  
to have a change of heart,  
you should learn to love generosity.  
Amen?  
Dalok ang aton na tagipusoon.  
Sabi niya,  
to have a change of mind,  
be generous,  
be willing to share.  
Okay?  
And,  
someone asked him again.  
Sabi niya,  
Lord, ganito.  
Sa mga sundalo,  
he talked to the soldiers.

Sabi niya,  
you know,  
don't extort money from others.  
Don't bully other people.  
Mahilig tayo mang bully.  
Okay?  
Binubully natin yung ibang tao.  
Walang kalaban-laban.  
Yan ang sinabi niya sa mga sundalo.  
You know, don't extort people.  
Don't bully around people.  
In other words,  
you should be merciful.  
Amen?  
Sa mga tax collectors,  
nagtanong sila,  
anong gagawin namin?  
What did St. John said to them?  
Collect only what is due.  
Do not overcharge.  
In other words,  
love justice.  
Change of heart.  
Start turning away from sin,  
yes,  
but most especially,  
change your heart  
and incline your heart  
to love God.  
If you love God,  
you will love to give.  
If you love God,  
you will love justice.  
If you love God,  
you will learn to love mercy.  
Amen?  
That's why it is our prayer  
and my prayer every day.  
Araw-araw itong talagang hiniw,  
my Lord,  
because this is one way  
that we can change in our hearts.  
Lord,  
Lord,  
teach me  
and help me  
to love You more each day.  
Bakit?  
Bakit?  
Why would we like our hearts  
to be inclined to love God?  
Why?  
Because if you begin to love God,  
you will begin to despise  
the things that are against God.  
Amen?  
Amen?  
You will begin to hate,  
you will begin to despise  
the things that are against God  
if you love God.  
Amen?  
Kagaya ng mag-asawa.  
Yung lalaki mahilig sa ingay.

They come from a big family  
so maingay ang pamilya nila.  
Yung asawan niya  
comes from a small family.  
Only child lang yung asawan nila.  
So sabi ng asawa niya,  
wag kayo masyadong maingay.  
Anong maingay?  
Sabi ng asawa.  
Putik pa lang ron.  
Anong masangag?  
Putik pa lang ron.  
Kasi sanay sila,  
maingay sila.  
But the wife said,  
I cannot stand  
pag masyado kayong maingay.  
Nininervius ako.  
Akala ko may away na.  
You know?  
Pag dumating yung kapatid niya,  
Hoy! Nandito ka!  
Bok! Kumusta?  
Pak, suntukan ka agad sila.  
Yung asawa naman,  
nininervius.  
Anong nangyayari?  
Anong nangyayari?  
Ba't nagsusuntukan kayo?  
Sabi ng asawa niya,  
Hindi!  
Ganyan kami magmahalan.  
Nagsisigawan at nagsusuntukan.  
But the wife said,  
cannot stand it.  
Hindi kaya ng asawa.  
Kasi tahimik yung asawa.  
And every day,  
nagsasama sila.  
Every day,  
wife takes care of the husband.  
Until one day,  
napansin ng asawa,  
yung husband niya tahimik na rin.  
Pag dumating yung pamilya niya,  
yung mga kapatid niya,  
sabi ng husband niya,  
Shhh!  
Bakit ka maingay?  
Alam? Malangas malaka mo.  
Bakit?  
Bakit?  
Kasi tumugo na yung pag-ibig niya sa asawa niya.  
He loves his wife so much  
that he begins to hate and despise  
the things,  
the things  
that would irritate his wife.  
You understand what I'm saying?  
That's why every day,  
for us to change our heart,  
ask the Lord every day,  
Lord,  
teach me and help me

to love you more in my life.  
The more I love you,  
the more I love God in my life,  
the more I despise.  
I despise wrong attitude.  
I despise the wrong frame of mind.  
I despise having bad habits  
because I am so in love with God.  
Amen?  
That's what repentance is.  
And the joy,  
the joy that comes out in our life  
when we are restored by God,  
when you are restored  
into fellowship with God,  
when everything that the enemy  
has taken away from you  
is being restored to you,  
given back to you from God.  
Seven times, sevenfold,  
hundredfold,  
God is restoring things to you  
just because of a change of heart.  
May this Advent season  
challenge each and every one of us.  
Challenge us  
to think deep in our hearts,  
why am I not being restored?  
Lord,  
teach me to love you more each day.  
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