

Telling the Truth : An act of personal Catholic conviction
A Lenten reflection
21 March 08

Life in the present turbulence

The last few weeks of my life seems like a lifetime in terms of passion and conflict, my life as I knew it before February 05, 2008 has been almost completely wiped out, my life has not been just turned upside down, its being spinned around while being turned upside down, I am continuously harassed with death threats, legal suits, slandered in cell phone texts and mails, subjected to pillory in media and humiliated in public. My children are now suffering the humiliation of not being allowed to join their barkada's gimmicks because of their friend's parents concern "na baka masali pa sila sa raw sila sa gulo ng mga Lozada", my boy losing out on all 5 special academic awards, 1 special excellence award and the race for the general excellence award because he was not able to go to school for almost 3 weeks before the final exams, my young kids are being robbed of their childhood, my wife is an emotional wreck and we need counseling, my family life before is now like a mirage in this desolate desert that is now my reality.

A reality where deceit, malice, greed and evil reigns.

I survived my abduction and disappearance by unidentified PSG agents at the airport, the subsequent duress of Gen. Razon's PNP and the legal trickery of Manny Gaité & Tony Bautista to get me to sign my false affidavit and finally Mike Defensor's sham offer of money to appease GMA by doing a press conference where I was to deny my own abduction and my involvement with the ZTE scandal. I do not know if I am going to survive the renewed attempts of GMA's men to discredit my person and my name, while they are busily burying their skeletons in their ever growing cabinets.

I am tempted & choose to respond with the same degree of venom and hate, I can choose to respond with the same falsehood, I can choose to respond with the same duplicity and double talk. But I choose not to, instead I choose to explain my actions which I did because of my Christian Catholic conviction with the hope that I may be given the chance to be understood by those people who are genuinely seeking to understand my motivation, including those people who are being confused by people who are out to destroy me. Maybe including even those who have already made up their mind and has already judged me even without bothering to know the facts about me.

Social Encyclical as the foundation, a Catholic mindset

I am one of those who believe that a "**result**" can only happen when an *action* is taken, and that an "**action**" is actually prompted by our *attitude* towards the target of our activity, and that an "**attitude**" is shaped by our *mindset* that we adopted as our own moral compass, it is therefore the "**mindset**" that is the foundation of all results that are created by an action taken prompted by a certain attitude shaped by a particular mindset.

Creative Subjectivity a doctrine I learned in a social encyclical written by Pope John Paul II called “Centissimo Año” became a cornerstone of my mindset, a doctrine that I have adopted because of its relevance to my life as a struggling catholic in what is becoming a more and more over materialistic world I am living in. Here in my own words is how I understand it.... “ We are all endowed by our Creator a certain gift during our creation, and we are all being enjoined by the Pope to use these God given talents in the service of the Church in whatever station of life we might find ourselves in, we are to serve by using these talents in uplifting our poor brothers and sisters in Christ from the inhumane conditions brought upon by their economic poverty that drives them to commit sin.”

This doctrine has become the foundation of my life, my mindset I have used to shape my attitude.

A philosophy for an attitude

“Why is it that inspite of the billions of people that has walked upon this earth, only a handful of individuals continues to be respected, revered, some are even worshipped for their service to mankind even after a few thousand years of their death? While if you look at their lives more closely during their existence on earth, you will find out that there were far more powerful people than them, economically, militarily, socially and politically. Yet, these more powerful people have all been forgotten into oblivion. What was it with these people that distinguished them from the rest of the world?”

This was the question that a group of theologians and philosophers set out to answer collectively so that they may help mankind by laying down a guide for other people who may want to serve others as well, an attitude that I have adopted as my own, in my own aspiration to serve my church as shaped by the Catholic doctrine of Creative Subjectivity.

Here is how I understood the result of their work.. The Diamond Principle!

These people possessed four character attributes or polarity that sets them apart even from the very atom that makes up their body that only has polarities, which only has two polarities, a positive and negative polarity. What are these polarities?

A Transformative Vision – They posses a vision of the world that is completely “out of this world”, a world that is almost un-imaginable within the context of their time and existence, let us cite some examples.

1. The vision of the Christ of a world where “You love your neighbor as you love yourself.”, within the context of his world, where the neighbors of the Jews are their hated Palestinian enemies and their conquering Romans. It must have been such an unthinkable world for the Jews of his time even up to the present.

2. The vision of Rizal of a Philippines where the Filipinos enjoys the same civil liberties as the Spanish colonizers and subsequently to live in freedom once educated. Such a daring and un-imaginable vision of the Philippines in the context of where the Filipinos were practically slaves of the colonizers.

Courage – They possess a courage that allowed them to overcome their fear of facing ridicule, physical harm and even outright death, in their advocacy and pursuit of their vision.

1. The Christ had the courage to face up the Jewish and Roman authorities in preaching His message of being the Way, the Truth and the Life, despite the dangers he was exposing himself to by challenging the traditions of the Jews.
2. The courage of Rizal in writing the “Noli Me Tangere” and “El Filibusterismo” and still coming home to the Philippines to confront the social injustices he was committed to free his countrymen under the unjust colonial authorities.

Grasp of their Reality – They possess a very good grasp of the reality of their society, they were not one of those visionaries whose feet are not firmly grounded on realities anymore, they were talking in a language that common men understands.

1. The Christ knows the gimmicks of the Pharisees and the Sadducees and how they were constantly trying to trap him in violating the Jewish traditions and Roman imperial laws, similar with how he avoided such trap in the question posed by the Pharisees “Is it lawful to pay taxes to the Romans?”, with the answer “Render unto God what is God’s, and to Caesar what is Caesar’s!”.
2. Rizal’s social satire shows his firm grasp of Philippine colonial society, the cruelty of the Padre Damasos, the cunning of the Padre Salvis, the duplicity of the Doña Victorias, the frustrations of the patriot Ibarra and the injustice of the Spanish colonial rule.

Unbending Ethics – They possess an unbending ethics that allowed them to withstand the seduction of the material and temporal promises of the world, it was what separated them from the rest of the world.

1. The Christ was being hailed by the Jews to be the King of the Jews, yet he would rather disappoint them by sticking to his ethics that “ My kingdom is not of this world but of heaven”.
2. Rizal was being offered to be brought out of his exile in Dapitan and to be the Supremo of the Katipunan, yet he would disappoint them by sticking to his ethics that the Filipinos were not ready to mount a revolution, as measured upon by his ethics of a just revolution.

All of this four attributes are pulling at each other, each one trying to supersede each of the other three or a combination or all the three together. It is in balancing these four attributes where human anguish lies, a person's ability to handle the tension between his vision and his courage, to resist the temptation of choosing material wealth with his unbending ethics, it is in the discernment of how to situate yourself in this opposing moral attributes is where all the internal conflict happens, and where it must be resolve to guide the person as to which action he must take.

Taking Action : Telling the Truth

I hope that the preceding essay gives the reader enough background on the mindset and the attitude that has shaped and that has guided my action to tell the piece of truth that I have in my possession. An action that has now put me in the middle of controversy full of malice and suffering for me and my family, but at the same time creating a lot of hope and anticipation for many of our people particularly of the youth.

It is an action that I have explained for the first time to the public from a very personal view of my own Catholic conviction.

Seeking pastoral guidance that my action may yield a good result

It is in the spirit of Lent that I am now in all humility asking for the pastoral guidance of the Institutional Catholic Hierarchy of the Philippines due to the pronouncement from different priests, bishops and archbishops covering an entire spectrum from enthusiastic support, silent encouragement, cynical posturing to outright hostile attitude. Which confuses me in the practice of my faith, despite all the suffering and pain in has bring to me and my family, for an action that I did out of my Catholic conviction.

I am submitting myself to a thorough questioning of any member of the Ecclesiastes community who may have doubts or who have judged me from third party sources of information, including those who wish to destroy my person in front of an impartial panel of Catholic authorities and Lay people.

I will be ready to answer all questions from "why I'm visiting schools?", "Who is funding my trips?", "Is there a politician behind me?", as well as "Who is behind my kidnapping?", "Why do they want me killed?", "What did Sec. Neri & myself talked about?".

Sincerely yours

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