

Public Service – A truly productive work for Pres. Cory Aquino

Despite the continuous prayer vigils for the health and recovery of former Pres. Corazon Aquino, she nonetheless, succumbed to the devastating and deadly effects of colon cancer. Which brings home the point that death indeed, is the great equalizer which would befall each and every human being, whether one is rich and famous much like the late Michael Jackson and Pres. Aquino or one as poor as a pauper living in the squalor of Tondo or Payatas. Indeed, if you seriously think about it, our lives here on earth are but mere drops of water compared to the big ocean of eternity. This stark realization of one's brief span of mortal life could either lead one to a life-changing Christian spiritual renewal/awareness or lead one to the "Let us eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die" mentality, eventually headed to ruin and perdition.

It has always been my firm conviction that although the Lord will and does grant His children/people their innermost heart's desires, we are ultimately not here on earth to amass great wealth, to be the most important or highest-ranking in any organization, strongest, wisest nor even the most famous of all per se. As we can see from the lives of many great and famous men in the past, in light of the reality of death, it is all vanity. Unfortunately, it is quite lamentable that many Filipinos, including a substantial number of our local/national politicians and even the ones who are supposed to be the beacons of light for the Gospel, if only they are honest enough to admit it or not, are practical adherents of worldly-inspired philosophies which basically state... "He who dies with the most goods, wins." Or "What's in it for me?" And yet, these secular philosophies are totally contrary to what it is written in the book of 1st John 2:15-17... ***"Have no love for the world nor the things that the world affords for nothing that comes from the world comes from God. If anyone loves the world, the Father's love has no place in him. Carnal allurements, enticements for the eyes, the pride of empty show... all of these are from the world and yet the world with all its seductions will pass away. But he who does the will of God the Father, endures forever."***

After my life-changing heart attack and subsequent quadruple heart by-pass surgery in Aug. 2007, I have come to the realization that there is more to life than meets the eye. Indeed, many readers of this column are pretty much aware that I am seriously considering running for senator in the Philippines in May 2010. A few may privately think I am either a lunatic or overly ambitious. With the overwhelming odds

against it as well as the notorious "Dagdag-Bawas" election system, it may even sound presumptuous of me to think that I will win. Indeed, some have confided that although they appreciate my seemingly quixotic quest in being part of a movement to eradicate graft and corruption, gross immorality and sheer injustice in our beloved country of birth, it will simply be a waste of time, effort and worse, of hard-earned money on my part. But much like Bro. Eddie Villanueva and Gov. "Among" Ed Panlilio and indeed, the late Pres. Aquino, I have come to the realization that no longer should the political arena be confined as the playground of corrupt/incompetent politicians who are in reality, "wolves in sheep's clothing." I dare to say that perhaps, one of the main reasons why evil triumphs in the Philippines is because many Filipinos living in America in their respective "comfort zones", have grown indifferent/apathetic to the sad plight of our country and are doing nothing at all to stop the proliferation of evil. How true indeed is the saying that the only reason why evil triumphs in this world is because good men do nothing. How I wish that many Filipino-Americans will be reminded of the relevance of Philippians 1:20-22... ***"I am hopeful, even certain, that I shall not be put to shame because of my hope in Christ. I feel assured that now, as before, Christ will be exalted through me, whether I live or die. For me, to live is Christ, hence dying is so much gain. But I am to go on living, that means productive work for me."***

Many would agree with me that it is indeed, in the arena of public service with its inherent resources, authority and influence that it is quite possible to do the most amount of good to the most number of people at the least possible time. And in the process of installing God-fearing, Christ-centered political leadership in our country, one can readily see that it is quite possible for more Filipinos who profess to be Christians anyway to have a saving knowledge of the Kingdom of God as well. And that could very well be "productive work" not only for the late Pres. Aquino but likewise, for you and me...Di ba?

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