

Will you be a living sacrifice for God and Country?

Suicide-bombers are indeed posing the most challenging threat to peace and order in the war-torn areas of the Middle East, particularly Iraq and Afghanistan. These modern-day Islamic "jihad" suicide-bombers, willingly offer their lives and bring about violent deaths, mass destruction and untold misery. While perhaps induced by hate, anger and revenge, they are nonetheless, motivated by a deep spiritual belief/conviction that the sacrificial giving of their lives will be richly rewarded in the after-life. Interestingly enough, Catholic/Christians are also called upon to sacrifice their lives as well but in a rather contrasting one. St. Paul, in Romans 12:1-2, exhorts...***"I beseech you, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, your reasonable worship. Do not conform yourselves to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your minds, that you may judge what is that good, pleasing and perfect will of God."***

With the prevalence of salvage-killings perpetrated by the ever-powerful military/police establishments against perceived leftist elements of our society and the corresponding retributions from the opposing group, there is the proverbial, hate-filled, self-preserving yet vengeful attitude of an "eye-for-an-eye, tooth-for-a tooth, life-for-a-life" permeating the land. In the midst of this seemingly vicious cycle of violence and vengeful conduct in which many idealistic Filipinos seem willing to "sacrifice" their lives in a mutually deadly manner, God-fearing, Christ-centered Filipinos are more than ever called upon to be the living peace-makers in an increasingly violence-prone environment, life-preserving salt/beacons of light in a morally decaying/ever-darkening society. While increasingly many Filipinos especially those in positions of power/authority may very well be increasingly violent, arrogant, hypocritical, dishonest and greedy in their ways and attitudes, it's quite heartening to note that many less-privileged Filipinos, wittingly or unwittingly, seemingly practice the exhortation of Ephesians 4:2 to...***"Live a life worthy of our calling in perfect humility, kindness and patience, bearing with one another out of love."*** Realistically however, this much-vaunted resiliency and patience of the impoverished sectors of the Filipino people, is, in all likelihood, borne not so much out of love but out of understandable fear and utter helplessness. With no respite in sight, however, it may very well turn, in the fullness of time, to despair with violent/deadly aftermaths.

As such, if only to forestall what many political analysts foresee as a stormy political unrest brewing in the immediate horizon, I, much like many others, am pinning a lot of hope in the 2010 elections, praying that with a computerized election, the will of the people will no longer be thwarted by the well-entrenched "COMELEC Operators" with their notorious "Dagdag-Bawas". Indeed, by the grace and favor of God, the Filipino people just may be surprised to see the election/installation of morally upright, God-fearing political leadership led by Bro. Eddie Villanueva who is practically sacrificing so much of his very comfortable life as the owner of Channel 11 and 33 currently worth billions of pesos, besides being an internationally renowned Christian evangelist. Sadly enough, he is not given much of a chance by the reportedly "payola-rigged" surveys of ever winning the Presidency of our country nor was he even included in any of the recently concluded nationally-televised presidential debates. And yet, it is not quite improbable that the Filipino people will witness one of the biggest upsets in Philippine political history when Bro. Eddie wins the Presidency in 2010. After all, there is a strong clamor for a dramatic transformation in our country and Bro. Eddie's Christ-centered, servant type of sacrificial leadership is what we sorely need in our country.

I envision that in leading by example, he will inspire many Filipinos to live unselfishly for others and with perfect wisdom and spiritual insight, become a living sacrifice for others thereby, putting into practice what he/she supposedly believes. Imbued with biblically-inspired perspectives, I am quite convinced that Bro. Eddie, being a die-hard communist during his younger years prior to being a born-again Christian 30 years ago, is unlike any and all traditional politician/presidential contenders who have every motivation/inclination to perpetuate the existing graft-ridden patronage system as it is. Due to his vast political experiences/background from both ideological extremes in which his very life was literally put on the line several times, he has the much-needed mental/physical toughness and sacrificial/spiritual resolve, to effectively eradicate the pervasive corruption/violence-prone mentality in the government/military sectors, alleviate the grinding poverty of our people and usher in the much-delayed yet much-awaited vibrant/progressive Renaissance of our country. I am firmly confident that once our political leadership led by Bro. Eddie, who unknown to many Filipinos, used to also be a professor of political economics in one of the more prestigious universities in our country, turn their hearts unto our God and obey His commandments and decrees, our country and people will finally savor what Jesus promised in John

10:10...***"I came that you may have life and live it more abundantly."*** Indeed, Jesus sacrificially gave up His life, became poor and one like us so that we may become rich and one like Him full of heartfelt love, mercy, meekness, kindness, humility and patience. Isn't it about time that much like Bro. Eddie, we follow Jesus' lead of sacrificial living/giving and do the same as well?...Di ba?

Atty. Ramoncito "Monching" Ocampo, "Bro. Ramon", is a licensed lawyer by profession, an elder-disciple preacher of the El Shaddai DWXI-PPFI Catholic Charismatic community by vocation and a GK Advocate. He is also President of Bangon! Bagong Pilipinas (BBP), an advocacy for the moral, economic and political transformation of the Philippines. For comments, e-mail ocampolawusa@yahoo.com.