

**Transcript of Most Rev. Romulo G. Valles, DD Homily**  
**Opening Mass NMC2018**  
**(Feast of the Transfiguration of Jesus)**  
**San Pedro Cathedral, Davao City**  
**Archdiocese of Davao**  
**August 6, 2018 | 530PM**

Brothers and Sisters in the Lord, what a wonderful sight we are this evening gathered in this Cathedral to celebrate with the Whole Church, as I said at the start of the Mass, this wonderful Feast, the Transfiguration of the Lord, and also the Opening Mass of the 4th National Catholic Media Convention here in Davao.

We have Bishop George Rimando...and we have Bishop Mylo Hubert Vergara, the Chair of the CBCP's Episcopal Commission on Social Communications and he is also the Bishop of Pasig. Welcome Bishop Mylo!

And we have Fr. Joselito Jopson, the Executive Secretary of that Commission. And there are--last count--141 delegates...participants for this Convention, and 53 of them are priests here. Among the delegates, I guess, there are many Religious also sisters.

On this side, for our priest delegates and delegates from and outside Davao. What we call them are SocComm and the BECs...

We also have the Vice Mayor of Davao...welcome! He is representing our dear Mayor, Mayor Sarah Carpio.

My dear brothers and sisters in the Lord, it is quite difficult to refuse the request that we host this year's Convention--of the National Catholic Media Convention because among many reasons, because of my friend Bishop Mylo Vergara.

Other reasons that we could have said no, because we are hosting quite a number of gatherings in Davao--Church-related...

If you remember, during that National Press Con, when we introduced the Pastoral Letter, remember that...

one thing he advised me, facing Press People, do not bend...

We are happy indeed, as I have been saying, that we are hosting this National Catholic Media Convention...Opening Mass, Opening Day on this great Feast of Transfiguration of the Lord...

Media People in the Catholic Church...what would be in the heart of a Catholic Media practitioner? One day, during the National Convention of Canon Lawyers in Davao...on the last day of the Convention and I was listening through the radio...

After the Mass, a female voice was commenting on the Mass, I did not know her at first. But the commentary, the lines that she said was said with joy and delight.

That's the first that really struck me. To be a Media person that would report, that would talk, that would convey to people and the community with a heart and spirit full of delight and joy.

Perhaps, the reason could be and here I would humbly suggest, because she made it her own. She became part--not apart but part--of that convention. So she was reporting with joy and delight, perhaps without noticing it. But the way she said words and description, I can almost picture her with a sweet smile talking about something she was not a part of, but only was reporting. A very young reporter of..

I think, in today's world, to come across as a person with a spirit of delight and joy is quite valuable, quite important. How much more if we are reporters, we are journalists with Gospel values. That would always give us the confidence, I think, to come across as people in the Media doing her work or his work with delight and joy.

Almost farfetched application, almost awestruck by the event like the apostles, "Let us build three tents here! This is so wonderful, so wonderful to experience! Let us stay here!" Because she saw with delight and joy the whole occasion.

Second thought, my dear friends, would be the power of words. The power to describe. The power to articulate but mainly words, and perhaps--with the other part of Media--like the visuals.

This instance by the First Reading from the Prophet Daniel. How Daniel used words a bit confusing, not so logical but using words to portray and to convey the mysteries--or singular--the mystery he experienced.

With the eyes of Faith, as Catholic Media people, as Catholic people, I think we often encounter situations of mysteries of good and evil and that takes skill to articulate this experience of good and evil using words, using visuals--and that is powerful: to portray the truth of the mystery present in the situation.

I don't know how Peter, in the Second Reading, describe again his experience of the Transfiguration. Any situation, I guess, with the eyes of Faith, would allow us to see the mysterious presence of evil and good and, above all, the mysterious presence of the Hand of God in any situation.

And to articulate this, to convey this, to describe it to the larger community is a great responsibility of a Catholic Media person--personnel. And it takes great talent, great dedication using words and visuals and sounds just to portray and let people also be there in the experience.

The third thought, my dear friends, my dear brothers and sisters--first, hearts filled with delight and joy; second, hearts--minds mindful of the great responsibility to articulate the experience of the

mysteries present in every situation; the third is to be filled with confidence and hope that in any human situation--using what the apostles heard in today's Gospel reading--in great or difficult human situations or even success that would make us forget God and success that would only lead us to believe in human capacities, we must be mindful of the very important truth in today's Gospel reading: in every human situation, that we are all sons and daughters of God because the declaration, the voice that said, "He is the beloved Son whom the Father was well pleased", is also ours...

And so, when we face situations and we have, as journalists and Media people serving the Church--Catholic Media people, I think it is good to keep in mind that everything in the end will be all right. In the end, difficult situations will be transfigured. In the end, Goodness and Grace and the Love of God will triumph.

And I hope that would come up, that would show in the way we do our reporting, we do our describing, we do our work as journalists.

I guess every bishop is supposed to be a communicator. Bishop Mylo is a great communicator. But I have been doing it for the past 21 years. Today is my episcopal ordination anniversary.

I would end by asking you to pray for me so that I will continue to communicate, articulate, bring forth, and inspire people to see the Lord present in our lives.

To all the participants of this 4th National Catholic Media Convention, welcome to the City of Davao. Welcome to the Archdiocese of Davao and we will pray that your Convention, headed by Bishop Mylo, would be a successful one and an enjoyable one here in the City of Davao.

Transcribed by:  
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