

Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine,  
you did for me. (Matthew 25: 40)



## 16. The Kind of World That Kkottongnae Is Dreaming of 1

# A World Where No One Is Abandoned

The kind of world that Kkottongnae is dreaming of is a world where no one is abandoned, a world where everyone is respected like God, and a world where we love our neighbors just as we love ourselves.

Life is being thrown away in this world with its culture of egoism, in homes that are deficient, and even inside the wombs of mothers. Kkottongnae has been working to build a life-oriented culture to counter this destructive world dominated by a culture of death by taking care of those people who have been abandoned, with a warm heart.

The greatest agony that the poor encounter is not a lack of money, nor a physical disease, nor a mental disease, but the fact that they have been thrown away by their beloved family members.

### **There are Lives Abandoned by their Parents Even before Birth**

Today, many developed methods of birth control are preventing lives that would otherwise form, from being born. Fr. Oh Woong-Jin compares one brought into the world due to the failure of birth control methods to a semi-illegitimate child. Such a child often shows

shaded faces, feels isolation among his friends and suffers from other serious problems while he grows up to be a problem child, even though she/he has his/her own parents. Once a soul gets hurt, it can wither away, neither loving others nor being loved by others. Once we met a man who had been suffering from epilepsy and depression and asked him when he began to have those symptoms. The patient said that the seizures started from the time when he was told by his grandmother that his mother had tried to do everything not to give birth to him but failed and he was born.

Thus Saimdang Shin, who was a mother of Toegye Lee, once emphasized the importance of prenatal training saying that the 10-month training in a mother's womb is more important than the 10-year training after birth. Furthermore, even more important thing is being in the right frame of mind with prayer and love looking forward to the conception. A child born in this lovely longing will be welcomed anywhere, love himself/herself, and grow to become a great mind as a light of the world, loving other people.

### **There Are Also Many Lives Abandoned Even After Conceived In a Mother's Womb**

More than 50% of Korean women experi-



Babies from the House of Angels, which is a Government-approved adoption agency. They are waiting for parents who are willing to love and adopt them.

ence abortion, and more than 1.5million fetuses a year are sacrificed. Among them about tens of thousands of fetuses are killed before birth just because of the reason that they are females. Fr. Oh Woong-Jin, the founder of Kkottongnae, has clamored against this sinful abortion leading the anti-abortion movement and saved many fetuses that had come close to being killed by their parents.

In October of 2000, the great jubilee, the National Convention for Families were held at Kkotdongnae. Cardinal, Kim Su-Hwan, 10 bishops and about 5 thousand believers attended the Convention and held a consecratory ceremony for the Fetus Hill. **The Fetus**

**Hill was built to honor the 4 thousands of poor souls which are killed and discarded everyday** and to provide the place for mothers who experienced abortion to give their prayers of repentance and atonement in the hope of no more aborted fetuses.

**There are Also Those Abandoned After Birth, Solely Due to the Fact that They Are Handicapped**

Peter Oh, who was a premature infant with epilepsy, was wrapped in a cloth and abandoned in front of the statue of Mary in Kkottongnae. A young woman, probably the mother, had disguised herself as a volunteer,

came in and reported that a baby was crying. Just like the famous anecdote of Moses in the Old Testament... We found the pale, crying baby in the forest where the statue of Mary stood, asked around for an incubator to nurture and raise the baby, and saved the baby by making an emergency admission into the Daejeon St. Mary's Hospital.

On January 10th of 2005, God gave Kkottongnae a big present. That was a joy of having a 93-day-old newborn baby whose life was supposed to be given up due to an incurable disease. The baby was normally born in a natural childbirth at a hospital, but had an unaccounted-for ileus with the symptom of continuous vomit of a bilious secretion. The baby had two big surgeries but its paralyzed intestines were not cured. Even a sip of milk could not go down in its intestines, so it was barely surviving with an intravenous injection. It was a rare case of incurable disease, so the doctor in charge has hardly ever had such a case. The parents who had been taking care of the baby for more than 90 days with financial difficulty wanted the baby to be discharged giving up the medical treatment after they heard there was no hope on curing. It was a pitiful situation because they could not maintain the treatment nor stop it. Immediately after Kkottongnae heard about this, we decided to admit the baby to the Kkottongnae Hospital and keep taking care of it. The baby was in the condition of being extended of its life with the injection of infusion solution, even though its intestines were paralyzed.

On the first day the baby came into a new ward in Kkottongnae, it smiled every time it saw a person, as if it was thanking for its living

more days in this world. It was a smile that makes people happy and joyful. We do not know if it knew its sad destiny or not. However, it, having never got a chance of having milk, certainly made people around it happy.

Even at this very moment there are many workers and seniors who are abandoned by the society, work places and families, who live homeless on the streets or underground pass- es, often drinking alcohol and feeling mentally desolated.

Kkottongnae ambulances go all around the country looking for those people. We once found an old man frozen and soaked with rain on a street and brought him into Kkottongnae. After we bathed him with warm water, put dry clothes on him, and fed him with warm meal, he asked us bluntly, "why are you people so nice to a dirty dog like me?" We were surprised and asked back, "why are you a dirty dog?" "I raised my children so poorly that they abandoned me. What am I if I am not a dirty dog?" His eyes became wet while he was talking. They were tears of regret about his deficiency, tears of pain being abandoned, and tears of relief and thankfulness being warmly loved by neighbors.

The reason why there are people who have 'nowhere to rely, and even no power to beg for food' is because there are people who should love neighbors but who do not. This is a disaster that comes not from a lack of bread, but a lack of love. To cure the disaster that arises from a lack of love, first of all, we have to fill the people with love.

Kkottongnae will pray, sacrifice, and live with love to fill those with love, and ultimately to make 'a world where no one is abandoned.'



A recently born baby - 98 days old with an unknown symptom of enterostenosis.

The Fetus Hill



## 17. The Kind of World That Kkottongnae is Dreaming of 2

# A World Where Every Single Person Is Respected Like God

“God created human beings, making them to be like himself (Genesis 1: 27).”

We never say, “tet out” to anybody in Kkottongnae.

People often like to keep close to a person who is worth of taking advantage of but keep a distance from a person who seems worthless, just like the saying, “They swallow when it is sweet, and spit out when it is bitter.” However, we have never said, “Get out” in Kkottongnae, whether he or she has sinned or not, is useful or not, has a mental disorder or not, or even has been making a lot of troubles.

It is because Kkottongnae’ g dream is to help make a world where everyone created like God, is respected as a decent person just like God.

### **Kkottongnae Where No One Can Say “Get out”**

There was a brother, with a Christian name ‘Andrea’ who was really hard to get on with. He was an alcoholic and had been convicted twice before. On being released on bail from the prison suffering with diabetes and tuberculosis, he returned to his home, but his mother didn’t let him in. So, the man abandoned by

his mother wandered here and there and even considered suicide. One spring day when it was drizzling with rain he came to the Kkottongnae office soaking wet and he begged us to let him stay in Kkottongnae. At first we rejected him because he had family, house, and money. With a great disappointment he turned back and uttered in a low and sad voice, “then there left only one place to go to.” We were astonished when we heard him say that and thought that he could kill himself. So we accepted him no matter what the rule was.

His diabetes took a favorable turn and the tuberculosis was perfectly cured after a year-long treatment. His rotten feet were also 100% recovered. However, from then on he started to make a lot of troubles as we had predicted. He was a real pain in our necks.

He kept making problems: for example, he often got himself into a frenzy by becoming deadly drunk; threatened others with knife; he jumped into a car and got injured on purpose in order to get a reward; and sometimes threatened voluntary workers so as to make them cry or not to serve any more, and etc.

We wanted this man who had worn us out, to leave Kkottongnae. However, we could not say it out because we knew that it meant death



Fr. Oh meeting with the homeless in the underground of subway station in Seoul.



to him. So as Jesus went through the pain and died on behalf of us, we prayed for ourselves to have the strength to accept the pain and death on behalf of him, according to Jesus' teaching and we continued to take care of him. The three years of hard time passed by. And finally he did leave and returned to the society, got married, and started a family. However, unfortunately a liver disease from alcoholism drove him to death after several years. After his funeral, his wife called Kkottongnae and told us, "My husband used to ask me never to forget the kindness Kkottongnae favored him with and to deliver his appreciation to Kkottongnae."

### **The Most Precious Life**

A famous professor with Ph.D. at a medical school said, after he had looked around Kkottongnae: "I am not going to a Christian church anymore. How could almighty God create such ugly and disabled creatures in Kkottongnae that do not even look like human beings? How come He gave life to such failures? I can't believe in such a merciless God anymore."

And a nurse who served not even half a day in Kkottongnae came and said, "It is of no use to take care of these people. I think it is more considerate that we'd rather do nothing but let them leave this world as soon as possible."

There are people who live with such chaotic values and attitudes. We can live our lives being caught up in all sorts of work and not even be able to discern what is most precious in being human and what we should do or should not do.

There is a baby whose head is getting bigger

and bigger with a disease called Hydranencephaly.

The baby named Wonbeom was born to an eighteen-year-old unwed mother. He does not know who his father is, and his mother left him shocked by the result of his birth. Wandering around the hospitals embosomed by his grandmother, he was treated here and there for six months, but in the end could not help leaving helplessly with no hope of either surgery or cure as a result of the diagnoses of the doctors.

There is a word, "Everyone lost his original honorable appearance that God had given because of his sin" in the Bible.

Kkottongnae family members having imperfect appearance like Wonbeom who has a buffed-up head are not different from us at all, though. They are the very self-portrait of ourselves who are living in the modern society. We may live with a deformed and mean heart and with a sinful selfish mind that is hidden under an exterior that looks neat and beautiful.

No one can regard the baby as a worthless creature to live his life in this world. It is also due to your ignorance if you think that it is of no use to take care of the baby. We have to notice how precious the baby's life is. Furthermore, we should be aware that it is mandatory to take care of the baby devotedly since it could not only be beneficial to all of us but also wash away the sin of the young parents who abandoned the life.

We take care of Wonbeom just as we serve and respect Jesus according to the teaching of the Bible: ". . . whenever you did something for one of the least important of these people, you did it for me . . ."

We do this to make a world where everyone is respected as God.

Won Bum with a volunteer who looks after Won Bum. He suffers from an unknown disease which makes his head become swollen and bigger because of water inside of the head.



## 18. The Kind of World that Kkottongnae Is Dreaming of 3

# A World Where We Love Our Neighbors as We Love Ourselves

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and the most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’ The whole Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets depend on these two commandments (Matthew 22: 37-40).”

### **The Home of Anavim**

Kkottongnae opened the Home of Anavim at the beginning of last March. **Anavim literally means ‘the poor,’ and during the Old Testament era it was the calling for the religious who lived poor lives longing for God. They were the marks of the prophetic lives that revealed the Kingdom of God through the life of honest poverty.**

Kkottongnae endeavors to practice the gospel, ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself’ by bringing the homeless, who have been abandoned and left on the streets, under the bridges, or underground passages as anavim into the Home of Anavim at Eumseong Kkottongnae. Using the ambulances that Kkottongnae members have donated, the religious at Kkottongnae move all around the

country, in cities such as Seoul, Daejeon, Euijeongbu and other places every night after work.

### **Dramatic Reunion of a Father and a Son**

The anavim brought into the ambulance are hospitalized at Kkottongnae Hospital according to their health condition. Last month there was a happy event of long-separated father and son’s reunion.

These family members were living apart after their home was broken ten years ago. The son had left his home and got married very young, but he became separated from his wife 20 days after they had a baby. Following that time he became alcoholic and wandered here and there. One day, he came across his father who was sleeping around Seoul Station. Unfortunately both of the father and son had become alcoholic and homeless.

Though it was an awkward and uncomfortable meeting, the father and son ate together at a nearby restaurant. They went to sleep that night together with a comforter that they got from a passer-by wedding guest in the freezing weather in the underground passage. However, next morning the father woke up to find his son gone and was never to meet him



Brothers and Sisters are welcoming to Kkottongnae a person who was homeless.

thereafter.

From the time he parted from his son, the father lived on alcohol until one day he fell down with aggravated diabetes. Fortunately he was found by Kkottongnae ambulance and brought into Kkottongnae Hospital.

After about a month when his illness was stabilized and his condition had improved a lot, he happened to hear that his son was also hospitalized at the same hospital.

Although he wanted to run to him right away, the father felt constrained and so, hesitating, he only sneaked around to his son's hospital room. It was because he just figured out his son's feeling who had left him even without a greeting on the underground passage.

He agonized with remorse realizing that he had made his son become an alcoholic and go through hardships at a young age. 'Oh, he is blaming me... Isn't it all because I lived so selfishly, by not caring for my wife and children that I have made them feel resentful and even made my son's marriage fail and for him to become alcoholic? I should be blamed for my insincere attitude to my life.' With this thought, he could not find the courage to meet his son.

### **Forgiveness and Reconciliation**

On the other hand, the son decided to stop drinking this time after 10 years of living on alcohol. He also wanted to meet his father again whom he had left without a greeting on an underground passage, although he thought that it was all because of his father, who had not taken care of the family, battered his mother and given a lot of bitter feeling to the young

children, that he failed his own marriage and become an alcoholic. However in those days, he started to have a feeling not to hate his father any more. And then he happened to hear that his father had been brought into Kkottongnae Hospital owing to his health condition. He had volunteered to be brought into the hospital by Kkottongnae ambulance as well, and was treated to detoxify the alcohol poisoning by the injection of glucose and vitamin.

After they met together at the hospital, the son confessed to the voluntary workers: "I will ask for forgiveness from my father. I will tell him that it is all my fault, and although I have hated him I will forgive him and take care of him. I will nurse him if he cannot move lying on bed. He is my father. I would like to live with my father at Kkottongnae..."

After the father met his son again and had several conversations with him, he got around to speaking like this: "I won't leave Kkottongnae. Let me have 2 or 3 days of vacation a month. I want to earn some money for my son working outside. He will need some pocket money as he is young..." The son after he had been reconciled with his father said: "Now I would like to begin a new life without drinking and I hope to reunite with my wife and child honorably." The father and son said in one voice, "We will surely stop drinking."

If we want to love our neighbor, we have to forgive him/her and make peace with them first.

We cannot love hating each other. For Bible says: "If you love only the people who love you, why should you receive a blessing? Even

sinners love those who love them! And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you receive a blessing? Even sinners do that! And if you lend only to those from whom you hope to get it back, why should you receive a blessing? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount! No! Love your enemies and do good to them; lend and expect nothing back (Luke 6: 32-35).”

Tonight too, Kkottongnae ambulances drive through the darkness toward the places where the poor are abandoned. It is to bring the poor souls wandering around the darkness out to the light world, and to help make a world

where ‘we love our neighbors as we love ourselves’ just like the dramatic reunion and reconciliation of the father and son.

An ambulance of Kkottongnae going out on a snowy and dark night in winter







Kkottongnae  
Love Training  
Center





No one has greater love than this,  
to lay down one's life for one's friends.

(John 15: 13)



## 19. The Greatest Love for Your Friends Is to Give Your Life for Them

“A grain of wheat remains no more than a single grain unless it is dropped in to the ground and dies. If it does die, then it produces many grains ( John 12: 24).”

There is nobody in this world who is as lowly as those who cannot love anybody.

For, love springs up from a sincere heart and we can love as long as we are alive.

The greatest love for your friends is to give your life for them.

### **The Greatest Love of Kkottongnae: Forlorn Families**

Kkottongnae families sing “I am happy” even though they do not own anything, do not know anything, and do not even have health. The dying Kkottongnae families who are sick in their body and mind pass away from this world showing the greatest love at the last moment of death. A beggar found at Eum-seong Station, who had been hospitalized at Kkottongnae Hospital, was facing his last moment by a testicular cancer. The beggar asked a voluntary worker, “Now I’m afraid that I’m near my death. What should I do?” The voluntary worker answered the dying patients question, “If you want to go to heav-

en, you have to forgive your neighbors first. Then you have to repent your sin. And lastly you have to love your neighbors.”

Then, the beggar asked again, “There were many people who had despised me when I was begging. I already forgave them. I repented my sins sincerely which I had committed as an alcoholic. How come this dying body can love his neighbors?” The voluntary worker answered, “If you have just an earnest mind, you can love. Anybody alive can offer love. If you can make a promise to donate your eyes to blind neighbors even among your pains of death rather than you pray for your own recovery, you are already practicing the greatest love.” The beggar who had been deserted and had lived as the least person promised to donate his eyes. To the question of the voluntary worker, “Do you need anything else?” he answered, “No, not at all. I don’t need anything more. I really appreciate your help. I am also thankful for those who have taken care of the lowly one like me. I will never forget you in my future life.” Before long, the brother fell asleep into death quietly. Two blinds could see the light by the love of the beggar, and the warm breath of the poor brother became a



Fr. Oh Woong-Jin and Kkottongnae family members

light in the darkness and shed its light in the early morning of Kkottongnae.

### **A Story of a Pediatricist, Jeanne Mollas' Greatest Love**

An Italian pediatricist became pregnant of her 4th child, but she was diagnosed as having a uterine cancer. Her families as well as doctors recommended her to have an abortion to save the mother's life, but she insisted to keep and bear the baby, saying **they don't have a right to judge and choose between the life of herself and the baby in her womb**. As expected, she passed away from the complication of the cancer after she gave birth to a baby girl. Some people said she was foolish. However, the mother did not follow the worldly knowledge but God's teaching: **"In order to be really wise you should become a fool (1 Corinthians 3: 18)."** Her daughter, who was born in place of her mother's life, became a doctor and is succeeding her mother's work. Born with the greatest love, she is living a valuable life offering love to her neighbors which her mother could not fulfill in her lifetime.

### **One of the Kkottongnae Members, Kim Mi-Jeong's Love at the Risk of Her Life: Mother's Love Won the Greatest Love**

Kim Mi-Jeong Agnes was a voluntary worker as well as a Kkottongnae member. As a teacher who graduated from a college of education, she had taken care of Kkottongnae families devotedly making a book of members and collecting funds by herself since the beginning of 1980s at the initial stage of Kkottongnae. She used to tell her mother to live together at a house near Kkottongnae. She wanted to live a

life of serving as a nun, but her mother did not allow her to be a nun and had her get married. She married at the age of 29, but she had a miscarriage of her first baby and became sterile with ovarian cyst and gallstone trouble. However, she happened to be pregnant of the second baby and the ovarian cyst was healed miraculously. Her delight was beyond description.

Agnes used to tell her baby in her womb caressing her belly like caressing a baby, "This baby was surely given by God. God presented this baby to me who was not able to be pregnant. This baby is Raphael. Raphael, you are sure to be a father." She named the baby as Raphael, and prayed for it sincerely. But when she was into her sixth month of pregnancy, she was diagnosed as toxemia of pregnancy with a swollen body and high blood pressure. Doctors suggested her to have an abortion though it was a little late for doing it, saying that it was the only way to save her life. However, she firmly refused, saying "How come I can kill my baby?... Even if I only saw someone else have an abortion, my heart would be crushed with pains. I will keep this baby even though I have to die." A baby boy was born, and he was christened as Raphael, which his mother had chosen. However, "Mother, I will come out soon from the operation room with a new-born baby" was her last words left to her mother.

When Raphael was still in her womb, Agnes used to ask her mother putting her hands on her belly like this: "Mother, who is going to raise this baby?"

Then her mother casually answered: "Who else will raise it except you?"

Not until did she pass away, her mother realized what kind of person her daughter had been and how kind-heartedly she had lived her life.

Many people visited to mourn the death of a young mother of 31 years old. Everybody consoled her mother, saying they had got her help before, and she was so kind that God specially took her early. Raphael is growing up as a healthy boy. The mother's greatest love at the risk of her life for her son will surely bear a beautiful fruit. We are all witnesses of every bit of this case.

*“The greatest love for your friends is to give your life for them.”*

Philippines Kkottongnae



## 20. Kkottongnae Is a Place for Salvation Work

Kkottongnae is not just a place for social or welfare work or charity work, but a place for the salvation of human beings.

Real love is required to deliver a life.

The real love reveals when you sacrifice and devote yourself and even risk your life on behalf of the pain and death of the deserted.

### **A Beggar Is a Person Who Never Gives But Does Nothing But to Ask for**

Family members institutionalized at Kkottongnae are starved for love.

They give the helpers and voluntary workers hard time asking and complaining continuously to relieve their thirst of love. It is like throwing water on thirsty soil. It is not an easy job to live with a person who is doing nothing but to ask for something. Father Oh, the founder of Kkottongnae, defined **a beggar as a person who never gives but does nothing but to ask for** after his living with beggars for tens of years.

A young man with large intestine cancer was institutionalized at Kkottongnae.

The cancer has already spread into the other parts of his body, that there was an apple-sized pit around his anus. He was miserably facing

death with maggots on his rotten flesh around the anus. He grew up with a dark childhood locked in hatred and curse since his mother abandoned him due to her concupiscence. One day, he was introduced a woman by his friend. As soon as he met her, he committed a rape cheating her with wine with a sleeping pill. After that he forced her to live with him in her house driving out her co-workers and acted as her husband. He even took the money the woman had earned working hard at a factory and had sent to her parents penny by penny, and made frequent physical attacks on her.

The forced-to-be a wife suffered living with the bad man, who took everything from her, for several years and decided to run away from him finally. But she became to know that he got a cancer just before leaving. She, who was about to leave the man who ruined her life, gave up her plan and unpacked her baggage. The innocent and good wife did not have the heart to leave the sick man, but even used up all her money left to pay for the medical fee. Meanwhile, she gave birth to a baby boy.

The poor wife devoted all her effort, but the man kept on demanding and treating her cruelly far from being thankful. The friends of him felt so sorry on her that they forced her to



A priest from Kkottongnae is conversing with a person who lives alone at an abandoned house.



leave him to start a new life, and carried the dying patient on a stretcher to his mother's house.

### **People Who Do Nothing But to Ask Changed to People Who Can Give**

The mother who found the patient at her door recognized him as her son, but she reported the police to take the unknown abandoned man away. So, she deserted her own son twice. The man to be taken to a hospital met a kind voluntary worker and received a good care. However, since there was no more available treatment for the cancer and no place to take him, he was taken into Kkottongnae by the help of the voluntary worker.

His existence always weighed heavy on the voluntary workers mind with a lot of pain, who were taking care of him.

They felt sorry whenever they could not respond to the demand from him, and suffered from watching a young body decaying without having a time of blooming. It was even more difficult to watch him who was cursing his mother and blaming his wife. They prayed everyday for getting rid of his hatred and resentment which was eroding his soul, picking up maggots on his wound one by one. After several months' hard time of inquiring here and there all over the country, the husband and wife with a son became to have a dramatic meeting. At the place, we prayed like this: **"Who is the perpetrator and who is the victim? Lord, we are a perpetrator to each other and a victim at the same time.** Now what is left to us is to forgive and love each other." After the prayer, they cried hugging without saying anything.

The wife said good-bye saying that she would come back again to take care of him with getting her parents' permission, but she did not come back after all. The patient told his last words with a change of his mind on his deathbed like this: "I-- now--forgive--my mother--who had abandoned--me twice--so I--hated to kill. And--send--my--words--to--my wife--who ruined--her life--because of--me, to raise--our son--well--and--live--happily." And then he said he would donate his eyes to blind neighbors thanking the world for helping him.

### **To Love Is Not to Share But to Give the Whole**

A person who has not received love does not know how to love.

**Salvation is to serve a person and change him/her who has not received and offered love into a person who can offer love. A person who does nothing but to ask becomes to be changed into a person who can give something.** The love only to share cannot lead a person to the point of salvation.

Social work or charity work running only with money, materials, programs, or organizations cannot change a person. The real love of giving my whole and even my life, and the love of even taking pain and death on behalf of neighbors can deliver a person and make him/her reborn. It is because the essence of love is on giving the whole not just on sharing.

The good wife's pathetic sacrifice who gave out everything of hers to her husband, who did nothing but to ask her everything, and the life of voluntary workers and the religious' life-long love was not in vain but could deliver a soul.

The wife tried hard to keep the promise but could not come back to Kkottongnae owing to her parents' strong opposition. She barely made a visit to her husband's grave after the funeral. When she heard her husband's last will for her to live a happy life, tears of sadness and happiness gathered in her eyes.

Like this, if we love our neighbors until we get to feel spiritually poor because we do not have any more left despite wishing to give more after giving out everything, a person can experience a change of his/her mind and can be delivered through us who live a spiritual life of poverty.

"Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor; the kingdom of heaven belongs to

them (Matthew 5: 3)."

Kkottongnae is doing human salvation work.

A priest of Kkottongnae baptizes a baby who has become a family member of Kkottongnae.



## 21. The Love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus: Taking Pain and Death on Behalf of the Neighbors

“I am the good shepherd, who is willing to die for the sheep (John 10: 11).”

“The Fatherr loves me because I am willing to give up my life, in order that I may receive it back again (John 10: 17).”

June is the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Every June, Kkottongnae holds an event called the Night of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Believers come from all over the country; dedicating candles and flowers, they give a prayer of dedication saying that they would live a life of taking pain and death on behalf of their neighbors by following the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We are going to see how the Kkottongnae spirit, which constitutes the core of the spirituality of Kkottongnae, was developed.

Kkottongnae founder Father Oh Woong-Jin has been a warm hearted man of not just passing by any fallen-down beggars or the sick on streets since his childhood. When he saw a dying father and his little daughter during the Korean War, as a child, he decided to live his life for such unfortunate people. He started Kkottongnae after he became a priest and met grandfather Choi Guidong. And he came to

make a new covenant with God on his way to the hospital with a dying old person he had found on the street. The new contract consisted of God’s promise that, “I will take care of everything else if you take those least important people in my name.” After that, whenever Father Oh received dying homeless people unconditionally, after praying and making every effort to look after them, he experienced food, clothing, and every other need being filled up naturally.

“If I had found and brought someone dying from the streets after breakfast, even when we were out of food for lunch, someone would always come and bring lunch for us before lunch time (excerpted from a sermon of August 19, 1991).”

However, the founder Father has had to endure a severe ordeal including much sadness, pain, and frustration. He has met opposition, persecution, and even risk to his life on his way to receiving and taking care of many beggars and the sick in his life time. He did not own anything, such as knowledge, money or skills, and had to work among worldly people who did not even understand God’s business. Through the hardships in his life, he could have confidence in his work that taking care of the



Supporting members of Kkottongnae praising and praying to the Lord on the feast day of Sacred Heart of Jesus.

homeless and sick people was the way to stick to the new contract with God, who said: "I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me (Matthew 25: 40)." He also gained courage through the words of Jesus: "The greatest love you can have for your friends is to give your life for them (John 15: 13)."

The spirit of living the real love and cultivating it can be achieved by praying day and night, by living up to one's beliefs actively, and finally dying. This spirit formed the founding spirit of the Kkottongnae religious orders. That is, it is the taking pain and death on behalf of the helpless neighbors who do not even have the strength to beg.

"Therefore the legacy that constitutes the spirit of Kkottongnae is not money, land, buildings, or hundreds of thousands of Kkottongnae members, but this God-given charisma. The religious who value it more than their life are the biggest legacy (from a sermon of August 30, 1991)."

The founding spirit (or founding charisma) of Kkottongnae is taking pain and death on behalf of the helpless neighbors who do not even have the strength to beg by following the words of Jesus Christ: "The greatest love you can have for your friends is to give your life for them (John 15: 13)." Embracing this spirit is to live the life of ceaseless love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus who even sacrificed his last drop of blood for us.

**Kkottongnae families give a daily prayer:**

**1) for the helpless who do not have anywhere to go, nor any strength to beg**

**2) for Kkottongnae families**

**3) for the religious orders of Kkottongnae and secular families**

**4) for the members, patrons and their families**

**5) for our country and all of humankind**

**We try to live the life of love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus so that the founding spirit may bloom up within Kkottongnae: By giving a daily prayer asking to take pain and death on behalf of them, by offering the pain of sickness and being forsaken to the families, and by offering the sacrifices of the religious and volunteer workers.**

The big statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at the entrance of Kkottongnae invites our neighbors who are in poverty and pain, the forlorn, and the troubled world, opening its arms with His holy heart and love.

"Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest (Matthew 11: 28)."



The statue of Sacred Heart of Jesus

## 22. Justice Cannot Embrace Love but Love Can Embrace Justice

Both merits and defects exist together in any community in the world.

If we see anything that has defects in it through the eyes of justice only but without love, we will judge it a lot and as a result criticize it. However, if we see the same thing through the eyes of love, we cover up the defects and fill up the deficiency ourselves, instead of judging and criticizing it. Fr. Oh Woong-Jin, the founder of Kkottongnae, once said that justice cannot embrace love, but love can embrace justice.

Justice without love is not truth, since truth is love.

### **The Love of Pope John Paul II**

The message of love from the recently deceased Pope, who traveled around the whole world throughout his life, was one of forgiveness and reconciliation. Pope John Paul II survived a gunshot through a huge operation. On the day of discharge from the hospital, the first place he visited was a prison. There he met the Islamic criminal who had attempted to murder him and forgave him in the name of the Lord. He embraced the murderer with love, not judging him only with justice.

He appealed for the truth without compro-

missing with injustice saying, "Communism must disappear. Let us pray until it disappears." However, he, who practiced love on behalf of the weak and showed true forgiveness in person, reconciled the whole world into one through his life and death. We can all confirm that the whole world, even the other religions, mourned for his death sincerely at the time of his funeral.

### **Who Abandoned These People?**

The reason why many people are homeless and abandoned these days is because those who should have been loving them did not do so. Consequently, someone else is supposed to love them on behalf of those who should have loved them in order to treat the disaster caused by a deficiency of love.

Kkottongnae has brought in and taken care of more than 13,000 abandoned people in the last 29 years. Among them, some were returned to their family through our efforts, but some were brought back into Kkottongnae again because their family had rejected them. Kkottongnae has been doing this on behalf of those who were supposed to do that but did not. However, Kkottongnae does not judge,



Archbishop Chang In Nam, the Apostolic Nuncio to Bangladesh and Fr. Oh Woong-Jin were greeting the Holy Father, John Paul II.



criticize, or blame them but “helps others just as we would help ourselves” in accordance with the spirit of the founder.

The most regrettable moments of living together with Kkottongnae family are the times when we have to see some family member whose illness is suddenly aggravated after the alleviation of symptoms followed by a long period of treatment. This occurs when they have experienced dismissal by their families or get the feeling of being unwelcome, seen as a burden to their families or relatives who they have always longed to meet. This experience gives them psychological trauma leading to the aggravation of their physical illness. As a result it takes a much longer time and more effort for them to barely recover again.

Whenever they feel the pangs of longing for their home and family, who blindly do not accept them, we feel the same pangs with them as well.

Blaming the family who abandoned the patient in front of the bruised patient is never of help in alleviating the illness. We know from our experience that it is of no use to blame the selfish family who turned away the patient to change the situation.

Instead of feeling regret about those who abandoned them and made the patients sick, it has been the life history of Kkottongnae to fill up that emptiness with the love they were not given.

### **Merits Are to Be Succeeded and Developed, and Defects Are to Be Compensated for**

Those companies whose employees have

once paid a visit to Kkottongnae report that their offices have become places that have a more peaceful atmosphere with better industrial relations, more productivity, and less labor strikes after their visit to Kkottongnae. The love Kkottongnae is practicing inspired the company to endeavor to develop their merits and make up for their defects with sacrifices, which lead them to understand, accept, and praise each other.

The way to help make this world a beautiful place is not to blame, criticize, or impose on others but to sacrificially compensate for their faults.

It is the same with homes. The reason why we have a rapidly increased divorce rate today is that we have lost our love by not enduring and making up for our spouses' defects but by blaming them only.

Justice without love does not change any person but only weakens and splits the community. To have a healthy community without split homes, workplaces, groups or society, we have to succeed developing the merits and make up for the defects of individuals or groups with our sacrifice.

### **Arsonist of Junglimdong Church**

A homeless person who despised the Holy Mother Mary set a church on fire.

Unable to sleep, due to agony, Father Oh Woong-Jin prayed for the arsonist. He said, “The fire in the church was put out, but the fire of hatred in the arsonist was not.” The next day, with the parish priest, he visited the homeless person in prison to help put out the fire of hatred within him. He forgave the arsonist, embracing him, and pleaded for his

leniency to the officials.

As soon as he was freed from the prison, he first paid a visit to Kkottongnae and apologized for his behavior and confirmed that the blind hatred in his mind had disappeared.

When a person sins, a lot of people suffer. Punishing the guilty man does not get rid of the troubles. Somebody should sacrifice to pay the dues and atone for the sins in order to clear away the troubles and help change the world into a beautiful place.

*Justice cannot embrace love, but love can embrace justice.*

A volunteer looking after family members of Kkottongnae



## 23. Love Can Be Offered by Everybody but Not Anybody

“God is love. Love is from God. Those who love are born from God, and they know who God is (1 John 4: 7).”

God is love.

I would like to practice love with my whole life even though I am a feeble person, if I can take the pain away from those who are God’s valuable and lovely children.

My biggest wish in life is to love. God loves us so much that He sent his only Son to us, who suffered on our behalf, and finally took death for our sins. As such, how can I not dedicate myself before God as an offering of thanks?

No amount of money, knowledge, or technology can make us united as one. However, the love, which our Jesus Christ taught us and



proved to us by dying for us, united us with God. And owing to the love, we can share pleasure gathering all together in this blessed place.

Love is like a flowing river. Nobody can stop the flow of love.

Love can be offered by everybody, but not anybody. When there is love within our hearts, we do not hate our neighbor for his/her fault; rather, we try to take the blame for the sin on behalf of the neighbor not having painful hatred. Love springs up when we forgive and cover the faults of our neighbors; love occurs when we are willing to die for neighbors. To keep myself, my family, all the people, church, and races alive, we have to love. Do you want to be loved? If you want to be loved, make an effort to love with all your heart.

**We all can love. Everybody can love. There is no feeble enough person who cannot love:**

However humble, poor, starving, alienated, despised, severely ill or suffered they are, or however close they are sitting in the face of death, they can all love. **Love springs up from the sincere heart. That's why we all can love.**

On the day of celebrating the commencement of the House of John (for the homeless) and of Salvation (for the elderly), more than 30 thousands supporting members of the community gathered for the special Mass for the occasion



As Jesus said that the biggest love is to die for our brother, a person who suffers and dies on behalf of his/her spouse and child is the very person who practices God's love. According to a newspaper article in 1985, 8,840 Korean couples sought divorce that year, most of whom argued that they did so because they do not love each other anymore even though they had married because of love.

Children's internal conflict due to a destroyed family is a factor that makes society unstable, and furthermore could even result in crippling a life who is unable to love.

The beginning of time and the legacy of Adam and Eve have shown us how humans used freedom wrongly, struggled to own rather than love, and conquered in order to own, and finally ended their lives knowing only how to control and take over. In the end, they could not own but were owned and could not reign but were reigned: They ended their lives tragically as our ancestors did with original sin after living a life like a beggar kneeling down before a devil.

Even at this very moment, if we only keep asking for things from God and depend on our neighbors, we become a living beggar who will inevitably be brought to Kkottongnae.

Today, at least 15 people will be left back here after 45 thousand crowds go back. Last year there were 13 people abandoned after 30 thousand visited here. We pray that you would be full of God's grace in your mind and would like to offer love.

How did Jesus Christ live in this world? Did he attempt to reign? Did he try to own? He never attempted to own or reign, but offered love to us. He even gave us the last

drop of his blood until his death on the cross to get rid of the suffering and sins by dying on our behalf, after living a life of healing the ill, giving bread to the hungry, forgiving the sinned, giving hope to the hopeless, and reviving the dead. He loved us with all his heart.

At last he became a King of all people, owning and ruling the whole world, and took the glory of resurrection.

God did great things through this blessed place where we are gathered today. He revealed himself in the beauty of nature. The flame of the Holy Spirit is spreading. He is present here, saying "I give my love, pleasure, and peace to all of you: faith to those who do not believe; true love to those who do not have love. I give my holy life to you who would like to live in the Holy Spirit, since my Lord and Father, God, stays in the place where love dwells."

Everybody can love momentarily. The poor miss our helping hands. They miss our warm hearts. They miss our unceasing love.

This beautiful Kkottongnae, which has grown with the help of your warm hearts, brought together by help of God, is now becoming a hope to the poor and a hope to people who love.

May the Lord receive glory and praise, as we give praise and thanks to you, since our valuable helping hands are doing so much, saving the poor from death even today.

May God give wisdom, skill, and strong will to the political leaders who are working in the Congress to carry out their job with true love for our people. We also pray to God for the realization of love for the unification of South and North Korea, building up world

peace according to your will.

Finally, we pray for all of you, who are attending this ceremony and giving warm helping hands ceaselessly, to become a blessed family with our Lord's Holy Spirit and have perpetual blessings in your home.

Thank you.

(From Fr. Oh's homily on October 15, 1986)

The House of Charity for homeless women



## 24. I love only you, whether you are sinful or not

Love does not have to ask about one's past.

The love we have for the Lord is unconditional. The Lord loves us whether or not we have committed sins. No matter what kind of faults you have committed, you are loved by Him because you are all the children of God.

Today, the Lord, the perfect love in Himself, has confessed His love for us, insignificant human beings.

"I love only you. Whether you have committed sins or not - I love only you, whether you are sinful or not."

There is a very sad story to tell you.

A mischievous five year old and his little brother were playing about in a room where some heavy goods were piled in the corner. An unfortunate accident happened in which the goods collapsed over the younger boy due to the blunder of the older one, sadly killing him. Although the older one was too young to be sure about what death might mean to him and his dead brother, he was shaking with inexplicable fear that he did something he should not have done. As soon as their parents came back home, they found their son dead and shockingly realized what misfortune had ensued in their absence.

Grieving over the death of their little son, the distraught parents dragged the older son who was trembling with fear in their arms and hugged him tightly rather than weeping over their child's sudden death. It was a much more urgent thing to be done than crying over their dead son. And it was the hug expressing the greatest love of the parents for their child that exceeds the limit of human frailty.

"- It's OK - It's not your fault - It just happened - You didn't do it intentionally - Mommy loves you - Your dead brother won't blame you - He said that he loves you - so - it's all right - Mommy and daddy are OK - OK - Sweetie?"

The little boy could not forget the warm and open arms of his mother, and her silent and deep love that healed all things. Although the boy was able to vaguely feel how sad and broken his mother's heart was, he felt secure and was in peace thanks to the warm love of his mother. With the power of the love his parents showed to him, that little boy has grown up and is now living his life, dedicating all he has to his neighbors. If human love for one's children is as great as this, can you imagine God's love for us?

- My beloved sons and daughters - I love



Brothers and Sisters of the Congregation taking part in the 8 week seminar of the Holy Spirit with family members of Kkottongnae.



only you, whether or not you have committed sins -

The heavenly Father, like the little boy's parents but with much more concern, would say and do exactly the same things to people who killed Jesus on the Cross.

There are some people with personality disorders living in Kkottongnae. According to Fr. Oh's own definition of a person with personality disorder, **he or she is the kind of person who tolerates his or her own faults, but is very intolerable and hostile to others'**.

There was a man whose name was Joseph. He worked as a miner and fell down from a high spot during his holidays and unfortunately severely fractured his spine. Since then the lower part of his body has been completely paralyzed. In order to get compensation, he succeeded in tricking the company into believing that he was wounded while on duty at the work site. After spending all the money he received as compensation, he, with a paralyzed body and severe bed sore, came to Kkottongnae. Even though he lived with us for 7 years, he was never satisfied with anything around him and, as a result, did not live his life in peace, often speaking abusively at many young volunteers, kind nurses and even at the sisters. Whether it rained or snowed, we always did our best to take him to a hospital in Cheongju three times a week for a renal dialysis despite getting into a road accident once. However, his bloody-minded and negative attitudes and thoughts did not change, only upsetting many other people around him. As a matter of fact, quite a number of volunteers left the community because of him.

As this finally reached the limits of our patience, we spoke amongst ourselves; "What should we do with him? We have to kick him out of the community if we want to protect many other good volunteers - We cannot take this any more -" complaining that we cannot treat him with more patience and love. At this time, the Lord responded to us about true love through the mouth of the founder Father of Kkottongnae.

**"I love only you, whether or not you have committed sins -**

**And today I would like to ask you - Just as I love you regardless of whether you have committed sins or not - won't you also love your neighbor unconditionally?"**

The above words from the founder of the community eventually touched our hearts so deeply that it got us to continue loving Joseph. After that, many other hard times passed, but just one month before his death something miraculous happened to him.

We came to hear his confessional remarks, which we will never forget.

"Brother - I might have been dead much earlier if it weren't for Kkottongnae. Please forgive me for all the trouble I caused all of you. Since I am an unworthy man - everything looked so futile and unworthy to my eyes. But now I do know what love is. True love is unconditional love that doesn't ask about one's past nor personality. It is love given without condition to anyone, whether one is good or bad. So, for the first and last time in my life, I would like to put the love I learned from this community into practice by donating my body and eyes that are the only things I

have at this time, after my death - I really appreciate all the things you have done for me - thank you so much -"

After that he lived for only one more month and left us.

As we observe many families nowadays being destroyed due to a lack of love, we are in greater need for the love of God who teaches us the true meaning of love.

"I love only you whether or not you have committed sins . . ."

"Love only your husband whether he has committed sins or not"

"Love only your wife whether she has committed sins or not"

"Love only your parents whether they have committed sins or not"

"Love only your children whether they have committed sins or not"



Special retreat for holy family held in Kkottongnae