

28. Privileges of God's Men

“You have been given the privilege of serving Christ, not only by believing in him, but also by suffering for him (Philippians 1: 29).”

God's Men

A God's man is someone living in this world who makes efforts, sacrifices, sweats, and even risks his/her life to follow God's will rather than human will, by the call of God. “God's men have to live following only God's will. They have to want only what He wants, love what He loves and choose the path that He takes, regardless of whether doing so would leave them in dissatisfaction, anguish, sadness, or happiness (from a sermon of Fr. Oh Woong-Jin in a mass of November 17, 1994).”

God's men get the privilege of serving Christ, and those serving Christ win the privileges of faith, hardship, and glory.

The privilege of faith refers to having confidence that everything one believes in and seeks to do will be accomplished; the privilege of hardship refers to being able to take part in the suffering of Christ; and the privilege of glory refers to the glory of resurrection that the dead will enjoy with Christ after having lived a life of hardship.

Privilege of Faith

“Believers will be given the power to perform miracles: they will drive out demons in my name; they will speak in strange tongues; if they pick up snakes or drink any poison, they will not be harmed; they will place their hands on sick people, and the sick will be healed (Mark 16: 17-18).”

The biggest contributor responsible for the transformation of Kkottongnae into what it is today, after starting with just 1,300 Won, is faith. Kkottongnae had to overcome a number of ordeals and hardships whenever they were building new facilities to take care of patients. It was their firm faith that had made everything possible each time. They had confidence and faith that everything they believed in and sought after would be accomplished.

Those who had been hurt were able to heal their sick bodies, broken hearts, and abused souls through faith after coming to Kkottongnae. Many voluntary workers were able to resolve personal and family issues while they were serving at Kkottongnae as well. The benefactors and members of Kkottongnae have also experienced recovering of their families and curing of their illnesses



100 priests from diocese of Incheon including Bishop Choi Gui Sun after their visit to Kkottongnae.

and pain.

Kkottongnae has become a place of healing through its privilege of faith.

Visitors often say in unison, “This is not something that can be done by just human power,” after they look at the scale and diversity of facilities in Kkottongnae, with the patients living happily, helping one another overcome the pain of their sickness and sorrow of being forsaken.

Privilege of Hardship

The founder Fr. Oh Woong-Jin has gone through a number of hardships for the past 30 years since beginning Kkottongnae. People would oppose it when it contradicted their own interests, despite saying that it was doing good deeds, taking care of the poor. There were even those who interfered in its operations even though they had no relation to the community.

Once there occurred a problem in the process of building the House of Love. One night, several influential men in town came to ask for a meeting with Fr. Oh. They were against the building of the House of Love, saying that Fr. Oh would become famous if he housed, fed and cured the needy, but they themselves would be troubled by the beggars flocking from all over the country. Fr. Oh prayed, asking for the wisdom of Solomon in that perplexing situation. At last he said, “Your answer to this question will be my answer. If you and your family were to be in the same situation as the beggars here, what would you think of my building a house for you?” They

could not answer for some time. After a moment they answered, “We would appreciate it,” and then they went back. Finally, Fr. Oh sighed in relief and continued the building of the House of Love (excerpted from Story No. 18 in Kkottongnae Stories, 1992, Kkottongnae Publishing Company).

Even after that, the leader of the beggars continually harassed Fr. Oh for compensation money for having taken his men from him. The man went as far as attempting to murder the Father with a knife after breaking into the parsonage. Recently, a person with a mining license sued Fr. Oh for impinging on his mining right; Fr. Oh had worked to protect the underground drinking water for Kkottongnae family which would be polluted if the mining proceeded. The law suit case is still under way. In addition to the above listed cases, there have been so many trials that Fr. Oh has faced that we cannot list them all.

Pray for Pain, and Pray for Death

When people ask “What do we do when pain and suffering tires us so much that we want to give up everything?” Fr. Oh replies: **“In order to overcome your suffering, pray for an even greater pain. When the greater suffering comes, pray for death. My only wish is to live for my poor neighbors till I die. I have prayed for death, but I am still alive, so I was able to overcome that suffering.”**

People generally do not like suffering and try to avoid it. However, people living a spiritual life volunteer for a life of sacrifice, asking for pain and embracing the cross.

“I consider that what we suffer at this pre-

sent time cannot be compared at all with the glory that is going to be revealed to us (Romans 8: 18).”

Privilege of Glory

“The pleasure of Christmas is found in love, and the way to salvation is in the glory of God.”

This was the Christmas message from Fr. Oh Woong-Jin in 2005. Kkottongnae is a community of salvation. We can experience the beauty of a saved spirit when we see Kkottongnae family members make peace with the world, forgive those who had forsaken them and repent their sins, leaving this world peacefully. When we take a last look at a dying Kkottongnae member who has suffered from

long-term sickness, all the difficulties we had while taking care of them disappear, and we have hope and pleasure in believing that they will share the glory of God.

God’s men who have given up everything to follow God’s will will receive the privileges of faith, hardship, and glory in serving Christ.

Brothers and Sisters of the Congregation of Jesus of Kkottongnae praying for the dying

