

Saved by the Risen Lord A story of a priest who conquered Covid-19 through faith and prayers

“It all started with a simple cough”, says Father Jay Hector Lituañas, a priest belonging to the Augustinians of the Assumption based in Quezon City. Fr. Jay travelled to Vietnam early this year for a meeting with fellow Assumptionists. Though already experiencing cough, he was not that bothered by it throughout his stay in the foreign land.

Upon his return to Manila, Fr. Jay continued on with his ministry and other related-activities such as recollections, saying masses, interactions with the urban poor, among others. As his cough aggravated, he went to his doctor for consultation and took anti-allergens for seven days. Fr. Jay remembered he could no longer sleep well at night as his cough persisted.

A doctor-friend advised him to go to the nearest public hospital for a swab test. He took the test and waited for the result after seven days. He was COVID-19 positive. In the morning of Holy Thursday, Fr. Jay was brought to the Lung Center of the Philippines.

He spent 12 hours while undergoing a series of tests and while waiting to be admitted. At the emergency area, he was depressed at the sight of COVID 19 positive patients hooked up on ventilators struggling for life. He spent a total of eight days in the isolation room doing meditation, morning and evening prayers, reading the Scriptures, reciting the Rosary, and some physical exercises. He was still in touch with his family, fellow Assumptionists, and friends who were his prayer warriors.

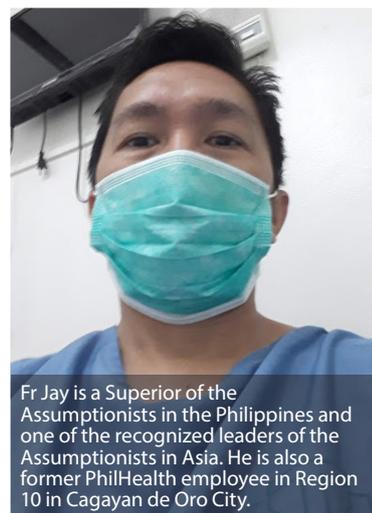


In the face of Covid-19, he remained strong and optimistic that this too shall pass by God’s mercy. There was even an instance when he was confronted by a sudden fear of death which moved him to fight for his life for the sake of his loved ones.

During his battle, Fr. Jay was very grateful to the doctors, nurses and other staff of the isolation ward. He even asked them to write their names on his small notebook so he can include them in his prayers and online masses. As days went on, he developed pneumonia and diarrhea and could not sleep well. But his strong will, and faith with doctors and nurses all helped him to recover well from the dreaded disease. He remembered his doctors saying, “Father, your positive and prayerful disposition is helping you a lot!”

After another week, Fr. Jay was finally discharged from the hospital completely healed. He left the hospital with deep gratitude to those who attended to him, to his countless prayer warriors, and also to PhilHealth which, according to him, provided him with financial support through its COVID-19 benefit package.

“I conquered COVID-19!”, Fr. Jay exclaimed. But not long enough that he corrected himself, “No, it is the Risen Lord who conquered the disease for me!” (END)



Fr Jay is a Superior of the Assumptionists in the Philippines and one of the recognized leaders of the Assumptionists in Asia. He is also a former PhilHealth employee in Region 10 in Cagayan de Oro City.

Reference: Dr. Shirley B. Domingo, Vice President for Corporate Affairs and Official Spokesperson | Mobile No: 09171360964