

Introduction

I would like to share with all my brothers and sisters, across the world, a story written with the intention to raise money for the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Saint Maria Goretti Conference, and starring my granddaughters, who are currently 2 years old, and 9 months old, my two daughters and son-in-law. The idea of the story, a play, is in fact a request for prayer for the future of our little ones, all the children of the Lord, and desire to renew ourselves as we get ready for the return of our Lord and Savior in this advent season. What kind of world are we leaving behind to our children's children? Will they be basked in material wealth with no room for God?

Thank you, and I Pray that you like the story, as much as I enjoyed writing it. It is for the Glory of God and all his children.

List of Characters:

Alex ("Papa Abuelo"): Narrator and grandfather of Elena and Anna

Elena ("Ele," as called by Anna): 17 years old oldest granddaughter

Anna: 15 years old, granddaughter

Bianca: Eldest daughter of Alex, mother of Elena and Anna

Christina (or "Tia Chia"): Second daughter of Alex

Juan: Bianca's husband and father of Elena and Anna

“Spreading the Faith”

Dedicated to my grandchildren, a 2033 Christmas gift.

Chapter 1 – Return Trip Home

Setting: December 24th, 2033, the return trip from San Antonio back to Arlington, TX, after a same day visit travelling by the bullet train.

ELENA: Papa Abuelo, I can't understand why you are so impressed that we left your house in Arlington today at 09:00am this Sunday morning, quickly visited two of the three colleges I wanted to check out, Saint Mary and Our Lady of the Lake, attended Mass at San Fernando at noon, had lunch at Riverside, walked by the Alamo, and will still arrive home before 5:00pm so you can feed the dogs, ok, “the kids” by 5:15pm, and so we can change and make it to the 6:00pm Christmas Vigil Mass at SMG.

ALEX: It is hard to accept how the world has changed so fast that I can now do this journey without flying Elena. It almost feels like we only went to Fort Worth or Dallas. By the way, which of the two colleges we visited did you like the best?

ELENA: I liked both, but my mind is still set on UTA. It has the best Robotics program. Both Mama and Dad studied there, and I can find low cost living arrangements just blocks away from the campus. As a matter of fact, I can imitate Tia Chia and keep two rooms, including free food, and the security and love provided by both dogs, Lucas and Booker. I only wanted to inspect these two colleges to reaffirm my decision.

BIANCA enters the conversation using her VMET communicator (*implanted microchip with volume, visual camera, and capable of monitoring vital signs. Requires an outside control to activate or deactivate the volume, the camera, and a monitor, simulating a modern-day wrist watch. Children under 25 are not legally authorized to carry a control unit*).

BIANCA: Elena, are you inviting yourself to live with your grandfather? Don't worry, Dad, we will talk more about this new development. How are you liking the trip so far Dad?

ALEX: Well, I enjoyed visiting the two colleges, plus attending the fourth Sunday of Advent Mass at San Fernando was a special treat. Thank you all for asking me to take this one-day visit to San Antonio. It used to take me at least five hours, depending on the traffic on I-35, just to do a one-way trip to San Antonio. I still can't get used to this change.

ANNA: But Grandpa, why would you think of going by yourself in that, what do you call it Ele? "Automobile," that uses gasoline, and travel by the old highway system, and spend two days doing so?

ALEX: Anna, I love driving my 2015 car. It still runs, even if it is with gasoline, and the roads are relatively well kept. Traffic is nothing compared to the old days, so I can easily make less than four ½ hours. The only challenge now is finding gasoline, and that is why I always aim at keeping my tank full.

BIANCA: Dad, please stop talking so much and focus on heading back to the station. Your bullet train departs at exactly 3:30pm, and the next one is not scheduled until 5:30pm. I will be at your house waiting with the girls' outfits so that they can get cleaned, groomed, dressed, and then head to the Vigil Mass at SMG with plenty of time before 6:00pm, and yes, so that you can feed the dogs by 5:15pm, too.

ALEX: Ok, I keep forgetting that we no longer have privacy in this world. Stop scaring me with that widget. It feels like if you are always here with us, and for the 1000th time, not "dogs..." Kids! Are you sure you can see everything we do? I am even afraid of going to the bathroom, as I keep forgetting to turn the gadget off. By the way, have you heard from your sister lately? Christina, are you anywhere around? Why do you never answer the call? You did not answer when we had phones, and now you are not answering with this gadget?

BIANCA: Dad, all restrooms are blocked by law, or have you forgotten your complaint about paying the VMET (Visual Monitor E Tracker) team to inspect your house? Plus, you keep your camera and volume off most of the time anyway. Thank God for the tracking and vital signs/alarm feature, as it can warn me if you are in trouble. I am using Elena's VMET; can't you tell the difference? Yes, Christina will be with me when you return to Arlington. She is currently busy and

out of pocket, Juan should be, too. So stop worrying and complaining and hurry up.

ALEX: Pay back. Kids always trying to tell their parents what to do. Remember girls, your turn will be coming soon. Mark my words, sooner than you expect, you will be telling your parents what or not to do!

ANNA: Grandpa, we already do! Right, Ele?

ELENA: Yes, we do. Mama, give me a break! I am old enough. Please let me be turned off every so often like Papa Abuelo, especially when I am with my friends.

JUAN: Hi guys. Elena, I am the one who handles your control, and you know we love you too much and only want the best for you, and when the right time comes, we will close our eyes. Until then, make sure you help your grandfather and your sister return on time. I will be recording the Angelus Children's choir tonight starting at 5:30pm. Love you two. Le encargo mucho a las niñas, buen viaje de vuelta.

BIANCA: Yes, thank you, Juan. You wish we take our eyes away from you, Elena! We trust you enough, but the law is the law. Please stop arguing and concentrate on hurrying up. Don't miss the train, you still have 12 blocks to navigate before reaching the station. You still need to clear security.

JUAN: Buenas tardes Juan, claro, lo vemos en la Iglesia. We are moving as fast as we can, Bianca, but the souvenir stores seem to have a hidden magnet on the girls! Just ONE little present, girls!

BIANCA: Dad, I am watching you closely. I can clearly see that the "magnets" are not delaying the girls, so God Speed! Move on, the 80-minute bullet train won't wait for you.

Chapter 2 – The 2000 Birthday celebration of the Church

Now inside the traveling bullet train.

ALEX: Girls, I have gone through many important changes in my life. This idea of fast-moving trains is one of my least favorites. It makes me dizzy, very uncomfortable. Nothing like driving my car and enjoying the view!

ANNA: Grandpa, this is nothing compared to the new rides at Six Flags, especially the one that lets you drive a go cart with rockets at zero gravity. So much fun!

BIANCA: Dad, if it helps, please tell the girls why the 2033 celebration of the Nativity of Jesus is so important to our faith. I think they will enjoy how you explain it. Right girls?

ELENA: If it helps Papa Abuelo not to think about the ride, I agree!

ANNA: Please Grandpa, tell us. I am sure we will hear a lot more than that, but at least we will not feel the trip. I promise I will pay attention, and not interact with my VMET. Friends, you can either cut my volume off, or listen to my Grandpa.

ALEX: Ok, if you insist, I will tell you why this Christmas is so important for us Catholics, and for all of Christianity as well.

We are about to celebrate the 2000-year celebration of the institution of Jesus' Church on Earth. On Sunday, June 4th, 2034 the Church will celebrate its 2000 Feast of the descend of the Holy Spirit. **Pentecost** is the birthday of the **Catholic Church**. ... Fifty days after Easter **Sunday**, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and their followers, and the **beginning** of their Earthly ministry to make disciples of all nations. ... The Holy Spirit came upon these people and each began to **speak** in tongues, and ever since then we have seen His works amongst us. The Holy Spirit is always hard at work, leading us in one way or another, and sharing his signs to those who believe in Him, and giving direction to His Church and children on Earth.

ANNA: Ok Grandpa, but why is it important to celebrate the 2000th birthday of the Church tonight at Christmas Eve?

ALEX: Anna, for 2000 years we have celebrated Advent as a time of waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior and the return of Jesus at His Second Coming.

For 2000 years we have seen the works of the Lord through His Holy Church. We have seen how at the beginning so many of our Patriarchs were persecuted, and yet the faith kept propagating throughout the world. It has not been an easy journey, as the enemy keeps fighting to discredit and break us apart. But as we are not alone, the Holy Spirit has kept us together. Yes, the Holy Spirit is invisible to us, and we are his visible members. We also count amongst us all the spirits in purgatory who are not yet purified, and the saints in heaven. The reason why it is important to celebrate the 2000th birthday of the Church is to bring us together in prayer and thanksgiving and to recommit ourselves to continue to follow Jesus as closely as we can, not only with our words but with our actions. See, we are the people of God, we are the ones he has chosen to follow Him, and we must do it by imitating Jesus, by always remaining humble and working hard together to help our brothers and sisters join us, and to protect, help and assist those in need, the poor of the world. Salvation is not for a few, it is not an exclusive club, it is open to all who believe in God, who convert to His Ways, and who can distance themselves from the physical world.

Girls, let me add that the Lord has plans for everyone, including you two, and for all His children on earth, in the same way He had plans for Jesus. He shared His plans for Jesus, through the prophets, well before the Messiah was born on a night like tonight that we celebrate Christmas. Jesus mission on Earth, as is ongoing, is to save us from our sins, and for His Second Coming to judge the living and the dead. As you are about to step into adulthood, I have prepared a little prayer booklet as a Christmas gift for you precisely for this purpose, so that you both can be counted in the flock of the Lord. But as this rocking chair keeps moving, I can't make out the letters any more. Elena, can you read it for us?

ELENA: Papa Abuelo, seriously? I can hardly feel the train moving, its such a gentle and soft motion.

BIANCA: Elena, please read the prayer booklet as your grandfather is asking. You are about to clear Austin, you have less than 45 minutes left in the train.

ELENA: Ok Mama and Papa Abuelo, I will read it, but Mom please turn down the volume off from my friends while I am reading it. I know they all have more important things to do, right guys?

ALEX: Thank you Elena! Here, this must be the booklet. Here you go.

ELENA: Papa Abuelo, this one says: "The 2018 Manifesto," is this the one you want me to read?

ALEX: Oh no, not that one. Here, this is the one. I have been looking for the old Manifesto everywhere, and here it is, inside my backpack, together with "The Rule." If we have time left, I will briefly mention to you the story of the Manifesto, and how it drastically changed our lives since the 2018 Christmas Eve posting. This is another example of the works of the Lord. But please go ahead and read this one. Anna, I have an extra copy for you too.

ANNA: Thank you, Grandpa! What rule is that?

ALEX: The Saint Vincent de Paul Rule book, written in the 1850's and still very accurate and to the point.

ANNA: Why do you always carry the Rule with you? I guess I'll add this Prayer Booklet to my collection of "treasures" in my room.

BIANCA: Anna, is that the proper way for a young lady to speak and thank her Grandpa?

ANNA: Sorry, Grandpa. I mean, I will treasure your gift. Thank You!

ELENA: Ok, let's start. What is this? "Preface?" Wow, and this is a "short" Prayer booklet?

Chapter 3 – The Prayer Booklet.

The Prayer booklet is several prayers I have humbly written down, as I am truly concerned for the future we are leaving for the upcoming generations. We inherited a much nicer world as we grew up, and unless we act swiftly, will be leaving them, our most valuable treasure, a land in turmoil. I count myself as a casualty of the times. For the grace of God, these would be my reparation prayers that I leave behind, and that I love to share.

ELENA: [*Reading aloud from the booklet*] Preface

“Dear girls, it has taken me several months coming up with these prayers. I spend most of my time at the service of the Lord, therefore I pray that you two lead a life of righteousness, love and charity. Please keep adding prayers as you find necessary. I left a couple of empty pages at the end so that you can add them. Witnessing firsthand the love of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit is always amazing!”

ANNA: Grandpa, why would we be looking to add additional prayers?

BIANCA: Anna, mind your comments. Sorry Dad... teenagers. It was my decision to postpone your Confirmation until you turn 16 in order to commemorate the 2000th feast of the Pentecost Celebration. Hang tight, you will find plenty of additional prayers to add to the book as you get ready to be confirmed. Elena, please continue reading.

ELENA: Okay, Mama. “Both of you are about to be Adults. Elena, you will be turning eighteen in two months, heading to college next fall. Anna, you celebrated your Quinceañera earlier this year, but time is running so fast that you will soon be following Elena’s footsteps. I am so happy that you will go through your Sacrament of Confirmation at such a beautiful feast. Life is not easy, especially for the faithful to the Lord. It is full of temptations, and every one of them seems so reasonable and right. I prepared these prayers with the hopes that they can guide your heart, your spirit and your actions in the years to come.

With Love,

Your Grand Father Alex

Prayer Book:

1. I Pray to the Lord that you always act with determination, conviction and faith. That you will always be firm in your actions and beliefs, and that you will always keep God in the Center of your lives.
2. I Pray to the Lord that you always value your talents, tools and gifts, and that you use them for the common good, and that you don't let them sit aside, like many in the world do. Please Lord, don't let your talents and gifts, and your Spirit, turn lukewarm. Always seek the Holy Spirit to guide you.
3. I Pray to the Lord that you always invite others, your friends and neighbors, to do God's work, as there is nothing more rewarding than pleasing God and helping others.
4. I Pray to the Lord that you do not get attached to the material things of the world, instead to use them and be grateful of their existence, but always with the understanding that it is for a temporary assignment that will end soon.
5. I Pray to the Lord that you learn that everything falls in place at its proper time. Sometimes it might feel slow, other times fast, but I Pray that you trust that God's timing is always perfect.
6. I Pray to the Lord that you can always feel God's presence in your lives, that He is as Real as it can get, and that you keep in mind to always invite him to follow you, on the ON position, as you now have your VMET's tracking and broadcasting all your words, moves, and even your vital signs.
7. I Pray to the Lord that you face your challenges head on, and that you understand that earthly needs allow room for evil to be present in your lives, and just as God is with you, so is evil. I Pray that you find that the difference is in your relationship with the Lord, inviting Him to always be with you and accepting Him every time you partake His Body and Blood in the Eucharist. I Pray that you always keep God at your side, and with Him, you will succeed overcoming all your challenges, and that you always aim to be in a state of grace, so that you can always consume the bread of life and retain His strength, and always be ready to meet the Lord.
8. I Pray to the Lord that you understand that all our lives float in an ocean of air, and that Faith is the key to finding the shore, but that we can only find the shore as a group, and not in an individual basis. I Pray that you understand that we need each other to reach God, the collective good, and

that we need to help each other to increase our Faith, to support each other, to move in the same direction, to find the WAY, and not allow our earthly desires to dissuade us.

9. I Pray to the Lord that you keep feeding and nurturing your Spirit, just like we do your physical body with food and exercise, that you feed your Spirit with good actions, charity, Prayer and closeness to the Lord. I Pray that you learn to fortify your brothers and sisters in need, too, by spending quality time planning and servicing them, and that you realize that there is a lot of work to do that no one is currently doing, and that you have been given all the tools, brains and imagination to make a difference.
10. I Pray to the Lord that you should always consider yourself as a servant of the Lord, His follower, and that you use your gifts and talents for the common good, not for your own pleasure and glory.
11. I Pray to the Lord that you always be self-sustained, whether single or married if called to that vocation, and that you learn to work hard for your own upkeep, and with your overage help provide assistance to those who can't truly help themselves, as is the case of some of the elderly, single mothers with multiple children, those with life ending illnesses, and the truly disabled. I Pray that you find ways of helping them, with your financial support or your time, following Jesus example, and that you reach out and help them the best way you can, to be an instrument of healing, allowing them to keep their dignity and helping them find a road to recovery or internal peace.
12. I Pray to the Lord that you should not judge others, only yourself, and that you must have faith that your life is directed by the Lord, that he has a plan for you. I also Pray that you understand that Evil happens, that it has no boundaries, and that it will have most appealing shape, and the most beautiful aspect, but that it is full of empty promises, and very unforgiving, and will enslave you, directing your life and manipulating you to do his work, yet it will always look reasonable and welcoming, and the only way you know it is evil is because you will only be helping yourself, isolating you, making you feel triumphant, when the opposite is true. I Pray that you realize that you will be under its spell, and that you PRAY with passion, and you run to the Lord, to confession, to reconcile yourself with God.
13. I Pray to the Lord that you will always be prepared, always remain in a state of grace, as you have no idea of the time or moment of your passing, so always repent quickly, when you can, because later that day might be

when you move on. Remember that It is not up to you. You can do all you like, take all the logical steps to living long, but the hour of your passing is not yours to decide, so be humble and be ready, I Pray.

14. I Pray to the Lord that you keep life simple, organized and clean, and that you are always ready to move on, to carry the least amount of baggage, to smoothen the transition, as events will happen and continue to happen, as they are part of life. I Pray that you understand that the only thing guaranteed in life is that you will move on, and that by nature we are not friendly to change, and that is why we tend to keep so many possessions, because we don't like things to change. But it is inevitable, is part of our cycle of life, and we suffer when we don't like to let go. We like to keep things the way they are, but the wind changes every day. The days are different each morning. The day starts with light and ends in darkness. Physical life starts with light and ends in darkness. Each day is unique and different, so is our life. I Pray that you will choose to follow God, so that your spiritual life will end with light, not darkness.
15. I Pray to the Lord that you always treat your body with respect, as the temple of God that it is, and remember that God dwells in your temple.
16. I Pray to the Lord that, if called to the vocation of marriage, when choosing your soulmate that you present each other to the Lord, your God, and that you Pray in Thanksgiving for the gift of finding each other. You need to always keep God in your relation, making sure that both parties are true to God and to each other.
17. I Pray to the Lord that once you select your kindred spirit, and that when God's time be evident that you should fulfill your Sacrament of Matrimony, that you enter the covenant by free will, and that you procreate and educate your offspring following your Christian values. I Pray that you keep in mind that a Father and a Mother are always needed for the proper upbringing of your children, and that the union should last until death do you part.
18. I Pray to the Lord that you understand that no one is perfect, only God, as our bodies are from the earth, we are subject to many challenges and our bodies will age and corrupt, together with everything else. Our Spirits are not from the earth, and the way we clean them is by the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I Pray that you keep your Spirit always clean and free from sin.

19. I Pray to the Lord that you will recognize a true message or action with the seal of approval from the Lord when it is meant to help and be presented with love to help the universal audience, the children of the Lord. If the message or action and benefit is exclusive, then it is not from God.
20. I Pray to the Lord that you not try to change or negotiate with God. His ways are not an open menu of choosing and selecting what works for you. Don't be arrogant, proud, or selfish. Instead I Pray that you be humble, lowly, and always ready to be of service.
21. I Pray to the Lord that you will always attend a Bible study, and that you learn to discern the words written by consent and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that you always Pray and invite the Holy Spirit to be in attendance with you when reading it, as it is a powerful book, one that requires guidance, respect and discernment.

ALEX: [*interrupting Elena*] Very good, Elena, thank you for reading. Let me take over with the final prayers, and then please finish with the last section.

I Pray for our Holy Church, as our Human side is weak and susceptible to sin. Please give our Priests, Bishops and Religious leaders all the strength and wisdom needed to guide us with love and compassion, according to Your Holy Will.

As an act of reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus, together we pray: come on girls, all together. Bianca, Juan, Christina, you, too:

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death Amen.

Saint Michael the Archangel defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; may God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do thou oh Prince of heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.

Please continue reading, Elena.

ELENA: Warnings, loving advice and comments from your Grandfather:

1. Time is of no consequence to the Lord, nor to the Spirits in Heaven. Once we cross over, time is not defined. Millennials might feel like minutes to us on earth.
2. In life everything eventually falls in place. If we are born, we will die. The important thing is keeping our Spirit alive. Once we cross over, all our actions will come to light. We will be our own jury, and Jesus The Judge. God is merciful, but are we going to be just as merciful with us? This is the reason for purgatory, to renew ourselves, to cleanse our sins, to be worthy to reenter with Him. That is why He sent his Son to save us from our sins, so that we could learn to follow Him, follow His works, to learn to be at peace with ourselves.
3. You will have many paths to choose from, with many road blocks in front of them, such as earthly delights (physical attraction, money, power, popularity, peer pressure, etc.) and apparent freedoms (smoking, drugs, alcohol, sex), but freedoms will turn into dependency, or slavery: John 8:34 "Amen, Amen I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin." The ruin of souls, emptiness, yet, so many promises, beauty, pleasure, power, freedom... freedom of what? Beauty according to whom? Pleasure about what? Are we better than animals? If we were created in the image of the Lord, then we should honor Him, not disrespect Him by behaving as simple animals seeking pleasure.
4. We have many definitions of Gehenna, but the one I want you to remember is a simple one. Imagine a very rich and powerful tycoon, owning many properties all over the World, and the best locations that money can buy. Imagine him with all the luxuries he can enjoy, private islands, the most delicious banquets, a fleet of luxury cars, private jets, helicopters, lovers (all the empty souls will be seeking his attention), everything that Lucifer can provide. Well, this handsome hunk dies unexpectedly, perhaps in an accident, or perhaps a jealous mate. Obviously his family will fight to death to obtain as much as each one of them can get, without pity nor compassion for each other. In our Catholic tradition, we talk about our Spirit. Well, the Spirit of this man will detach his body, and he will float into the air, as everyone else's. As he is so attached to his material possessions, he will not understand what is happening to him. He will ignore the light.

Once you detach, time is of no essence, no longer important. He will see all his bounty, but he will be unable to enter or use any of it. He will see his family fighting and killing each other to get as much as they can. He will watch all his possessions corrupt or go to the people that he less expected. Sadly, his Spirit will not be able to take it, and he will suffer eternal death, and whatever is left of his soul will continue eternally to scream in pain in his own hell. The saddest thing is that the time we spend on earth is very short, compared to eternity. Please don't be like this Rich man, don't fall in love with the material emptiness that life offers. Instead feed your Spirit with love. Follow Jesus, let his light always guide you, and remember, judge only yourself, no one else, not even an obnoxious tycoon, that could have truly repented just in time, seeing the light, and earning a sit in Purgatory. AMEN.

5. In order to remain with God, we need to be simple, with a humble heart, not pretentious, selfish, or seeking our own glory and comfort. We need to have an open heart, be thankful to our cause, which is a big and huge change of behavior to our current teachings in life. Current life conditions teach us the opposite. They teach us that we always need to be number one, accumulate wealth, have the nicest home and car, be popular and accepted in the highest circles. We are always expected to excel! Well, we need a big huge change of behavior, that might feel like going against our nature. Therefore it is said that we need to die to ourselves. The good news is that it does not mean that we should not look to be successful, the contrary is true. Please continue with your success, be productive and ambitions, but please share your wealth with love and dedication for the betterment of your community, a community comprised of the whole world. Once you are successful doing this, love will spread, and others will follow your lead.

Please keep writing in the pages I added. I pray that my words reach your heart. I prepared them to you with all my love.”

Thank you Papa Abuelo, I liked your words. I promise I will not judge anyone but myself, and I will not like to be like the rich man. I will use your advice and go through these prayers often.

ANNA: Grandpa, is that why there are so many haunted houses all over the place?

ALEX: (*what a spoiled child, she is currently 9 months old*) I don't know, Anna. I used this as an example. I am just a lowly servant, but I welcome you to ask a person with authority when you go to your confirmation classes at the Church.

ANNA: Other than that, Grandpa, I think that you are trying to sell us the idea of becoming Vincentians.

ALEX: That would be wonderful! When can you start?

ANNA: Wait, I haven't accepted. Remember, I must worry first about my Confirmation. It would have to wait at least 10 years before I join you. Don't forget that Elena is an active Junior Vincentian.

ALEX: Yes, thank you for all you do, Elena! You make me proud. I understand, Anna... Take your time. I know one day soon you will join us. I hope I can still be around when that day comes. In the meantime, it seems that we are now entering the DFW Area, we have reached Johnson County. I wonder if they monitor the speed of the train, and if they ever issue speeding tickets to the conductor. The income of the speeding tickets used to part of their local budget. I imagine that they might be missing that additional revenue.

ELENA: At first I did it thanks to Mama and Dad, as they would not otherwise let me spend time with my friends, and then after three home visits to girls my age, I got hooked. I now love going on home visits, and I have done twelve more since then. It makes me feel closer to Jesus, very weird, and I have this strange need to do more.

BIANCA: The power of persuasion. Parents know best! We are very proud of you Elena. Keep up the good work. Anna, you will be next, but first you must be confirmed.

ELENA: Thanks Mama. But Papa Abuelo, what is that book all about in the back pack? The 2018 Manifesto? Why is it called that?

ALEX: Ok, since we still have some time left, I will be brief in explaining the purpose of the book, as perceived from its author. It made its online appearance

precisely 15 years ago to the date during Christmas Eve, 2018. I got word of it on Christmas day, as a message on “Whats App,” on my smart phone.

ANNA: I have heard of those! Aren’t those the old fashion VMET’s that you could “lose, or to not charge a battery,” and be able to disconnect?

ALEX: Yes, but once you reach 25, by law, you will have the right to control your monitor, to be on or offline, until you reach 67. That’s when they start tracking your vital signs. No privacy!

Chapter 4 – The 2018 Manifesto

*(According to Canon Law regarding Lay Catholics: **898** "By reason of their special vocation it belongs to the laity to seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God's will. . . . It pertains to them in a special way so to illuminate and order all temporal things with which they are closely associated that these may always be effected and grow according to Christ and maybe to the glory of the Creator and Redeemer."⁴³¹ **899** The initiative of lay Christians is necessary especially when the matter involves discovering or inventing the means for permeating social, political, and economic realities with the demands of Christian doctrine and life. This initiative is a normal element of the life of the Church)*

ALEX: Regarding the Manifesto, I learned of this document on Christmas day, 2018. The reasoning behind it was very clear at the time. 2018 had been a politically challenging year. President Trump was in office, the government had shutdown, and we had just gone through a very difficult midterm election process. The truth is that none of the two well established political parties was friendly with our Christian–Judeo values. Both parties were driving away God, taking away His presence from Government, in direct contradiction to the Declaration of Independence of the United States, as the document reminded us.

The manifesto emerged as a much-needed movement to return God’s presence into the government of the Nation, let him be back in the driver’s seat, so that we could continue sharing the love and compassion that made this nation the Super Power it was meant to be, with fairness and equality. I think the original idea of the manifesto was mostly artistic in nature, it felt like if the author only threw a little rock of sand into the ocean and waited to see if it could generate any ripples.

Little did the author imagine that his book would change the political arena of the US, and that a new, strong party would emerge, as is the case of TPC, The Party of Charity. Remember, all of this started 15 years ago, and look at all the wonderful changes it has already brought. Crime keeps dropping each year, to the point that prisons are starting to close due to lack of inmates. Immigration is no longer an issue. On the contrary, it's encouraged. Medical care is no longer in the form of an insurance plan, and love and fellowship seem to be the new standard of living. Even the environment has improved. And I attribute all these changes to God, as he wanted this to happen and be the case. It is His Glory that we are enjoying. We still face many challenges as a Nation, but we discovered that united in God, everything is possible. I now feel very good about your future. I was not feeling so good 15 years ago, when the Manifesto first appeared. Therefore I have kept a copy of it, to remember those days. It is a short document, so go ahead, Anna, it is your turn to read.

BIANCA: Please go ahead and read it, Anna.

ANNA: Do I have to? Grandpa, since it is short, why don't you read it?

ALEX: Ok, we still have a couple more minutes before we reach the station.

**The 2018 MANIFESTO – One Nation United under God
by Hector Maurice Rolando.**

Prelude:

"In CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America,

"When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation."

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

"That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security."

Current events in our Nation prove that our two major political parties are greatly misrepresenting our beliefs and our laws of nature, as is obviously stated in the Declaration of Independence dating back to 1776. The current major parties have lost all respect to our Creator, and are trying to replace Him with the forces of evil, that include the destruction and disintegration of the family unit, the morals and values that made America great and united throughout our history, the killing of 60 million of unborn indefensible children, the lack of respect to human life, the lack of love and compassion to all Citizens, the despotism that rules the land

today, the replacement of the moral values with all sorts of immoral ones, the lies supported by members of the government, and most regretfully, allowing and assisting foreign nations to infiltrate our media, our schools, our teachers, our way of life, and aiding and abetting in order to make us weaker and vulnerable, risking our National security.

The time has come when the righteous need to stand up and work united to fight the current forces of evil that are dominating our political arena.

Resolution 1: Concerning the need for the righteous to stand up and work united to fight the current forces of evil dominating our political arena: I call on the Faithful People of the Lord from all Judeo-Christian faith traditions to unite and organize a political party that would be centered on God. Let's agree on the principles that bind us together are more numerous than the ones that set us apart. Let's remember that Jesus is the meaning of love and compassion: Jesus left us a New Commandment: **John 13:34-35** *"I give you a new commandment: *love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* With Jesus and the Holy Spirit is guiding us, everything is possible, even working together in His name.

Imaging the strength that we can have and the example we can set if we work together, united, as the Children of God, instead of allowing the enemy to continue dividing us.

Let's honor Jesus by working together for the common good. Luke **9:49-50** 'Then John said in reply, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow in our company." Jesus said to him, "Do not prevent him, for whoever is not against you is for you.'"

Let's leave our pride, ego, and differences behind, and let's together work in keeping this great Nation under God, our Creator, in the Center of our lives.

Resolution 2: The Golden Rule. "Do to others whatever you would have them do to you." This is the law of the prophets. The new Party will be based on working together for the common good. None of its members, nor directors, nor anyone with authority should use their position to evangelize nor gain away the flock of God, to try to convert members or make them switch faith traditions. Our truce is to be working together for the common good, to accept each other with our

differences, to enforce the Golden Rule by all the extend of the human and Divine Law.

Resolution 3: The current demons in Government – Mark 3:24-25 “If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. By the words and actions of the current parties, It is clear that Satan, “the tempter, the accuser, the liar, the imitator, the evil one, prince of demons, the adversary, the slanderer, the wicked one, the murderer, the adversary, the father of lies, the sower of discord, the enemy of all good, the spirit that works in the children of disobedience,” ^{1.(unknown author)} is currently in control of our Government. The only way to win back our government is to work together with love and compassion, and to slowly but surely replace the agents of discord and re gain our Nation to our Creator.

Take as an example the recent fiasco regarding the nomination of Judge Kavanaugh, and how members of Congress are still complaining about his nomination because he is a thread to ending abortion, even to the point to helping a Professor to lie and call herself a victim, when she was the aggressor. It needs to stop. The right people, with the right heart, the fearful of the Lord, need to take those positions. As the Declaration reminds us: “ But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.” Let’s regain our Nation to God!

Resolution 4: Call for an explanation on foreign interests -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MEtYsNRe4uE&feature=youtu.be>

I call for an explanation to the news media of why they have omitted mentioning anything regarding the findings on the report Dec. 20th. 2018, from Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS) in the Senate floor. In his report, Senator Wicker mentions the corruption of an International entity, paid by and supported by the US, and points out to “the infiltration of the Russians and the Chinese in many Latin American Nations with Anti American propaganda,” and all this is being paid by the US tax payers, and it seems that the CIGCIG has been doing the work of the Russian mafia for several years. Why? What is going on? How can we remain lukewarm? Who do we believe anymore? Is this how Government should be run? Is this

information not news worthy? Is it less important than the fabricated stories from Judge Kavanaugh? Let's Pray for guidance and unity!

Resolution 5: A call for action. I call for an ideological revolution! Of course, a peaceful revolution, one fought with love and charity, guided by Jesus, under the command of the Holy Spirit. John 14:12-14 "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father. And whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it."

We need to return God to our value system. An example of this is the current cost of living for our poor, for those in need. We are making everything harder for them. Look at the interest rates to loan them money! Over 300% and more. Look at the cost of providing them with a vehicle! Look at the surcharge they must pay for utilities. And the list goes on. It feels like we are placing money and power over and above human life and dignity. Is that calling us good Christians? Good followers of God?

Resolution 6: Don't confuse Social Justice with Socialism, and don't confuse taking Communion with God, as Communism. Most importantly, don't confuse our motives: we are not revolting. Instead, we are peacefully uniting in God for His Glory, not ours.

Social Justice means offering the means and tools needed to help those in need succeed, not offering them handouts and free money to live without working. The contrary is true, we expect everyone to work hard and contribute to society, to be productive and hard workers, under the laws of God, and our Nation.

We need to find a WAY to help our brothers and sisters to succeed. Let's Pray that we can find the right folks to achieve these goals.

Conclusion: We are the children of God! Let's unite together with respect and love for life. A peaceful coexistence amongst us. Nothing will bring more rejoice to the Lord than us working together for the common good. Our revolution is to help our brothers and sister replace their material hunger and accumulation of wealth with the gift of giving and sharing. God loves order, hard work, commitment and compassion. Together, with the principles of the Love of Christ, we can change the direction that our Nation is taking. We don't need to end like

the Mayans, the Aztecs, the Romans, the Egyptians, the Incas, nor any other civilization that has destroyed itself. With God as our leader, we can live long and prosper. Why choose any other WAY?

“Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day **our** daily bread; and forgive us **our** trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” AMEN.

ANNA: Is that the end Grandpa? It doesn't sound threatening at all. Did people really pay attention to it?

ALEX: Anna, it was a slow process. But it planted the seed in the hearts of influential politicians that were needing a change. That is how the party was formed, once the proper candidates were selected, and their platforms prepared, the rest is now history. The central idea of the party continues to be based in God's commandments. Peace and prosperity have reigned ever since, and the world is a much nicer place, as we now help each other, in harmony. Other nations are following our example, and government corruption is slowly decreasing everywhere. God is good!

ELENA: Ok guys, we have reached Arlington. Let's disembark quickly, and start heading to Papa Abuelo's. Mom, are you picking us up? Or do we use Uber?

BIANCA: Your Aunt is waiting for you. She is in your car, Dad. Christina, are you online?

CHRISTINA: Yes, I see you guys, head towards the Sports Arena. Do you see me?

ALEX: Let's hurry girls, I would like to arrive early to the Church, and I still need to feed Lucas and Booker and take them for a quick walk.

It impresses me to see how Arlington is growing and changing, hopefully for the better. Can you imagine that 15 years ago we had no public transportation?

ANNA: But Grandpa, you still don't!

ALEX: Well, this train terminal and all the network of trains make a big difference, plus don't forget that we are new World Capital of Sports, with the largest number of athletes ever since the days of Athens, and all thanks to those huge sports complexes they build all across the city, with world class swimming pools, tennis courts, the Cricket Stadium, the soccer training fields, and the large network of running and bike trails. They even built the Formula Three race track, and never underestimate the Rangers and Cowboys. The Rangers have been the World Champions for over seven straight years, and the Cowboys have been exchanging super bowl victories with the Dolphins and Steelers (Fr. Jim) since 2020. What were the odds of that? Very Impressive indeed!

ANNA: Yes Grandpa, we know. It's almost like you must be in top shape to live in Arlington.

CHRISTINA: Sometimes it does feel that way, but then I remember that being in "top shape" spiritually is even better.

ANNA: But Tia Chia, you are an adult, so that does not count! Of course you don't care about fitting in.

ALEX: You look to be very healthy, Anna, and I know you are on the way to great spiritual health like your Tia Chia, and that is the one that matters. Thank you, Christina, for being such a dedicated Vincentian.

ELENA: Anna, you will never be in top health if you keep eating all those cheese cakes and ice cream you love so much!

ANNA: Ele, I have beat you in swimming several times! I have several better personal records than you in the 100-meter freestyle, and I can bike further than you... and I run farther than you, too...

ALEX: *[interrupting the argument]* Girls, we have arrived! Don't forget that a house divided will not stand, but a house united pleases God. Let's hurry and get ready to head over to Church. Let's always remember that baby Jesus, the Lamb of God, the true light of the World, sacrificed His life for the forgiveness of our sins. Let that light shine our future together in Union with Christ!

Anima Christi: Soul of Christ, make me holy. Body of Christ, save me. Blood of Christ, fill me with love. Water from Christ's side, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me. Good Jesus, hear me. Within your wounds, hide me. Never let me be parted from you. From the evil enemy, protect me. At the hour of my death, call me. And tell me to come to you. That with your saints I may praise you. Through all eternity. Amen

Thank you note

I hope and pray that you like the story and I pray for all the young children of God, that they may find the love of Jesus and that all of them may gain the morals and values needed to survive as the people of God, and that their parents may always be able to keep a roof over their heads, and food on the table.

What kind of world are we leaving behind to our children's children? Will they be basked in material wealth with no room for God?

If you like the story, please feel free to send your donations to:

(Checks payable to): SVDP SMG, 1200 S Davis Drive, Arlington, TX 76013 Attention Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. You can also drop your checks and donations to the Poor Box located in the Narthex of the Church.

Disclaimer: This story and all its contents were not done for any other purpose than to bring awareness, a call to action by the faithful and prayers as indicated for the future of our most valuable treasure: our children's children. In no way or form, other than receiving the donations, has the SVdP SMG Conference to be liable with any issues arising from any portion of the contents. I am responsible, Alex (at SVdP SMG we don't have last names, as if we are all children of Christ Jesus).

The story is the first part of a fundraising program, the second is the Friends of the Poor Walk year-round celebration, to be introduced in January 2019. Our Friends of the Poor Walk will be a daily prayer of the Rosary during Lent – the Lent Challenge - and ending with the Divine Mercy Novena. The Rosary, 60 beads, will be presented on our web page in the form of a Power Point Presentation. Each day will have a Sponsor, and the sponsorship will be whatever amount you can contribute to our friends and neighbors in need. We can set up a picture, a logo, or anything that can be added to the Power Point, following the Christian rules of decency.

This has been a beautiful year in our ministry for our SVdP SMG Conference. Thanks to all of you we almost tripled the amount of help we provided from the previous year to families in desperate need in our community, specifically zip codes 76010, 76011, 76012 and 76013. We have also gained new volunteers, Vincentians, that have joined us, plus we have elected a new President. All we

need now is to raise the funds to continue Jesus footsteps of helping and loving His children.

We also have white bandanas with an engraved blue SVdP logo for sale, two sizes 20" x 20" or 25" x 25", for multipurpose use for a requested donation of at least \$15.00 per bandana.

All money collected goes to local families in need. Please send as an email to svdpsmg1200@gmail.com with your order request, and we will hand deliver the orders to your house or set a time to meet you at the Church.

Please help us help others! And Join US following Jesus!

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year!
Your brother in Christ,

Alex