

BEHIND THE LINES

BY BOB JALDON

Los Angeles, CA. — A week from now, the official campaign period for local elective positions will commence, although the candidates have been campaigning the last two years. Today, Christians all over the world will celebrate Palm Sunday. It is a moveable feast on a Sunday before Easter. It marks the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. It signals the start of HOLY WEEK — commemorating that last days of Jesus Christ's life. HE knew that His sacrificial death on the cross would save all the sins of mankind.

The bible says that as HE entered Jerusalem on a donkey, the crowd shouted “hosanna” (save now) and the palm branches they waved symbolized goodness and victory. The Jews recognized Jesus as the promised Messiah. The biblical accounts of Palm Sunday can be found in Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; and John 12:12-19.

In present times, who shall we praise and call “messiah” on May 9? Jesus taught His disciples only what was good. But they are oft, interred with their bones. But what made Jesus a strong leader? He did not condone killings because it violated one of His Father's 10 commandments. Killing will not make good what is bad for it is wrong and a sin.

Presidential candidates have presented themselves to the electorate and the people in different ways. They similarly pledged, as every Filipino, to defend our freedoms. They have vowed to stop all forms of radicalism and violence brought forth by the enemies of the state — the rebels, the terrorists fighting to dismantle our constitutional sovereignty by seeking self-rule or a separate state that will effectively segregate them from the Filipino race.

The five presidentiables have equally promised to generate more jobs for the educated middle-class and the lower middle-class and provide livelihood opportunities for the less-educated and blue-collar workers.

What we need is a president that will speak not only for Manila and Quezon cities and their surrounding cities and municipalities, but for ALL FILIPINOS, especially the destitute. We must elect a president who represents himself as a president, not as the mythical Dirty Harry. We need a president who encourages foreign investments and provide better social security benefits for the retirees.

We need a president who doesn't clown around and uses foul language, ala Donald Trump, to curse people. We can no longer be the character embarrassment of the world. People made a mockery of ERAP and his presidency. So what if he couldn't speak straight English like La Sallites do? So what if he spoke like a drunk? He was our president, for crying out loud!

Do you see what the trolls are doing on Facebook against certain candidates? If Facebook were allowed to vote, guess who will be the overwhelming winner on May 9?

We need a president who would block every move by any nation to infringe on our sovereignty and territorial integrity. Yes, they have stated their foreign policies, and differ in most aspects in dealing with China, for example, and our continued relationship with the United States of America.

Nevertheless, I have always said that there is nothing we can expect from any of the five candidates — only empty promises, not even words of wisdom.

For five decades, we paddled our own canoe. If we managed to stay economically and socially afloat all these years, it is because of our fighting spirit (ala Blue Eagle) that believes that we have special God-given gifts to rise at every occasion, good and bad.

We've seen people maimed and killed by grenade attacks; rich innocent individuals kidnapped; women abused; affluent persons murdered in broad daylight. Did the national leadership pay any hard attention to our grief? No! Not Marcos, not Cory, not Ramos, not ERAP, not GMA. As for PNoy, you tell me.

There is no 'messiah' forthcoming for Zamboanga. What we have now are what Atty. Vitaliano

The messiah

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Agan, Mrs. Maria Clara L. Lobregat, Erico Basilio A. Fabian, Mr. Celso L. Lobregat and Mrs. Ma. Isabel G. Climaco-Salazar founded.