

Near Death Experience (NDE):  
*A Personal Journey*

Fr. Joseph T. Chan

*Take,  
Oh Lord,  
and receive,  
all my liberty, my memory,  
my understanding,...  
and my entire will.  
Whatsoever I have or hold,  
I give it back to you.  
Simply give me your love,  
and that will be enough.  
And I will ask for nothing more.*

3.10.2013

6 am

weather forecast: showers and possibly thunderstorms, highs in the 60's, breezy with wind gusts, and a chance of one hundred percent precipitation

10 am

the rain, fog, and wind finally settled down.

I thought that the storm was over.



# Near-Death Experience (*NDE*)

In anguish, I cried out,

“Oh God!”

In the turbulence, I recounted as if my voice echoed

*“I cried to the Lord in my distress, from my straits, he rescued me.”*

*Psalm 107*

# Near-Death Experience (NDE)

## Police Report

hit a signpost,  
veered to the right guardrail  
on Interstate 44,  
blew off eight posts;  
car sprinted, rolled, flipped  
to come to a final rest.













MARCH 10, 2013

Motor Vehicular Accident, catastrophic case

Internal abdominal hemorrhage s/p exploratory laparotomy with delayed closure, pelvic, liver and splenic hematoma, s/p splenectomy and hepatic artery embolization

Pelvic Ring Fracture with suprapubic hematoma, s/p pelvic ring fixation and sacroiliac screws placement (#2) for S1-S2 fracture, s/p pelvic fixator removal

Chest tube placement (#3) for pneumohemothoraces, pulmonary contusions and air leak; respiratory failure s/p tracheostomy

Femoral fracture, R proximal s/p intramedullary rod placement

Radial fracture, L s/p screw and plate placement

Retrolisthesis, T5 on T4 s/p T3-T6 screw and plate placement s/p removal

March 10, 2013

Meridian greenfield filter placement for acute (LLE) and subacute (BLE) DVTs s/p filter retrieval with internal carotid approach with nick

Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy (PEG) tube placement

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) with secondary hypertension

Deafness (AS) and hyperacusis (AD),

central, not a candidate for cochlear implant

Peripheral visual field involvement, central

Adhesive Capsulitis, Right shoulder

Small Intestinal Obstruction, partial, secondary adhesions

Bell's Palsy

Hypovitaminosis D





# Traumatic Near-Death Experience (*NDE*) as a cause of:

## Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

A traumatic stressor is defined as “any event (or events) that may cause or threaten death, serious injury, or sexual violence to an individual, a close family member, or a close friend.”

The exposure can be “direct, witnessing (in person or indirectly), by learning that a close relative or close friend was exposed to trauma, or experiencing repeated or extreme indirect exposure to aversive details of the event(s), usually in the course of professional duties, as with first responders.”

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5)  
American Psychiatric Association



# Traumatic Brain Injury(*TBI*)

“An alteration in brain function, or other evidence of brain pathology, caused by an external force like a blow to the head from a relatively blunt object or from blunt impact of the head with a stationary object.”

Since my coma had persisted for more than an hour, and my post-traumatic amnesia, for more than 24 hours, which is classified as moderate to severe traumatic brain injury, I had more extensive cognitive and behavioral changes.

These changes consisted of fatigue; attention deficits; learning and memory problems; impaired planning, problem solving, and concrete thinking; lack of initiative; inflexibility; dissociation between thought and action; impulsivity; sudden affective fluctuations from flatness to irritability, outbursts of temper, and crying spells; communication problems; and lack of insight and self-awareness.

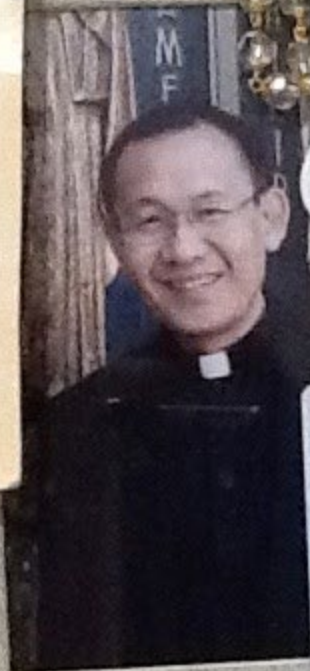
# Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (*PTSD*)

An anxiety disorder experienced when  
“an event that is outside the range of usual human experience,  
such as a serious threat to one’s life or physical integrity,  
or that of another person”

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5)  
American Psychiatric Association, 2013

# Near Death Experience (*NDE*)

My traumatic near-death experience -  
suddenly, and most deeply convinced me,  
that I am not,  
and never was,  
in control of my existence,  
the events of the world,  
my fate,  
vulnerability, and...  
the reality of my death.



































# *Alter Christus*

by Joseph T. Chan (January 2014)

Where were you  
when I needed you most?  
The sky thundered,  
The rain flooded,  
And the winds shrieked!

Stricken,  
I could not see;  
Pounded,  
I could not hear;  
Broken, paralyzed;  
Anguished, drowned with tears.

Afflicted,  
I screamed for help;  
Terrified,  
my heart shattered for affection;  
Breathless,  
I sighed for your love;  
Confused,  
my soul vanished to oblivion.

Darkness covered the earth;  
Stillness, the wrath of gloom;  
Silence, the deafness of death;  
Then life faded into mist.

Clouds soared over the horizon.  
His right hand pierced through,  
Extended to my being,  
And God came to me.



Why your unbelief?  
Before you were born,  
I have called you by name.  
You were mine.

I have fixed your trunk to make you  
forthright,  
Your pelvis, to make you steadfast,  
Sewn you up so the bleeding ceased,  
Saved you to make you whole.

Void, you will discover me anew!  
Deaf, obey me with your heart!  
Fractured, you are steeled to endure!  
Stunned, exclaim the Good News!

Have you empathized with me?  
Have my wounds become yours?  
Has a centurion stabbed your chest?  
Has my cross weighed down your  
shoulder?

I called you and you resigned.  
My will and your will were molded.  
Mortified by such a tragic cost,  
My protective embrace caused my  
own demise.

I spared you for redemption,  
For with me, nothing is impossible.  
Never let go of my outstretched  
hand,  
It is the time  
when I needed you most.



