**BIRTHDAY SPEECH**

**FOR**

**ANGELITO CADIENTE**

Hello everyone!!! What a great moment this is... today we’re gathered to share the importance of excellence, wisdom developed through years of experience, the beauty that is found in the simplest and smallest details, the richness and texture of something so special.... Yes. We are all gathered to savor one shared goal.... **BIRTHDAY CAKE**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). .... oh and we’re also here to honor the **SEVENTY-FIFTH** birthday of a man that has been more than a friend to each one of us.... he’s a spiritual master, a patient and guiding light, the voice of wisdom and faith when we need it most... and even when we don’t... the wonderful, wise, Reverend Dr. Oscar B..... a man who has more letters after his name than a large bowl of “alphabet soup...” (**Wait for the laugh**)... (**If you think it’s okay, you can say**) As long as I’ve known him, I... and all of us, have referred to him with the utmost respect, as “”Reverend Oscar” or Dr. B” (**turn to Dr. B and say**) ...but today, because it’s so special, and because you’re like **family**, I will call you, “Oscar.” ... and because I am proud to say you’re like family, Oscar, I feel even closer to you than ever before....and you know, **THEY** say, “**sharing is caring,**” so I was wondering.... as a special treat, how’d you like to pay some of my bills?? I’m **VERY** willing to share,, (**Wait for the laugh**). .... oh... and I know you have a photographic memory, so if you want to wait a bit, reconsider and circle back... don’t worry...I get some every month!!!

The great artist, Pablo Picasso, known for his raw talent and unlimited enthusiasm for life, has said, “Youth has no age,” ... he should know... he lived and painted and celebrated until his death at the age of 92... he was just getting **STARTED** at seventy-five!!! ....that’s certainly an expression that reminds me of Oscar.... he’s a man whose love of life transcends time.... he’s eternally youthful. He honors the joys of life. He shares his wisdom and love of faith and family knowing that each time he shares or “gives away” his compassion, it multiplies **ten fold**. Oscar’s gifts of love and fellowship have clearly been with him for his **entire** life.... of course I wouldn’t actually be able to testify to that because I’m **so. much. younger.**.. I wasn’t around at “**the beginning**...” (**Wait for the laugh**)... but I’m grateful to have this wonderful man in my life, guiding me, praying with me, sharing inspiration and thoughts with me, for (**note how many years you know each other**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years. Talk about blessings!!!

Oscar is a man who has lived with purpose, integrity, and faith... he follows the rules and encourages everyone to live with the same regard for others.... welllll.... **usually**... and it’s **usually** a reassuring and bonding experience when two friends can share milestones...**BUT** there’s one I will **never** forget... and I am sure neither will he... there’s **that memory** of his... it was over twenty years ago... we were in the process of forming our family agency and Oscar was (**and is? Please correct if necessary**) one of the incorporators. He was out driving one day and was **SO** intent on coming up with a name for our company that his right foot “got a little heavy” and he was pulled over for speeding. He may not have been spared the judgement of the highway patrol, but by the **Grace** of God he is saved... his “investment” was nothing more than the price of the ticket.... and a chance for us to take a trip down memory lane.... at the legal speed!!! Possibly as a reminder to us all, the company was named, and still is called, “**Grace** Home Health Care.”

One of my favorite expressions... one that allows me to **think** of those people that have really touched me and enriched my life, is, “I am part of all that I have met.” How blessed we all are to have a person like the Reverend Dr. Oscar Baldemor in our lives!!!! I know that every day I celebrate the connection we have and the meaning of all that he has done for me and my family (**If you want, you can add**).... Oscar, you’re wonderful but **NO**. I am **STILL** **NOT** paying for that speeding ticket (**and wait for the laugh**). I admire your mild mannered nature and I applaud your steadfastness, your patience, and your consideration. Abraham Wright said, “Our God is not an impotent God with one arm, but He is slow to anger, so He is great in power”.... I know we **ALL** feel your power and strength... and to paraphrase Jack Nicholson.... because...**CLEARLY** he and I are **SO** similar... “You make me want to be a better man.”

Oscar, there are two Bible passages I would like to dedicate to you on your birthday.... but then again, with that memory... I’m sure you already know what I’m about to say.... (**Wait for the laugh**).

* In Proverbs 15:18, we learn, “A hot tempered person stirs up conflict but the one who is patient calms a quarrel”
* In Proverbs 19:11, we’re guided by, “The discretion of a man deferred his anger; and *it is* his glory to pass over a transgression.”

Oscar, thank you for being in our lives. Thank you for caring and guiding us with patience and purpose, thank you for being such a loving and positive friend and leader, but **MOST** of all, thank you for giving us all a reason to have some **CAKE**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Here’s to many more celebrations, chances to be together, and happy occasions. Happy birthday, Oscar and Bless all of you!! Thank you!