



The Baptism of the Lord
January 11, 2015

Sunday Liturgy Guide for the Church of the Poor in the Spirit of the New Evangelization

The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, intuit and shares the presence of Jesus only through suffering and death in dialogue with all peoples.

In light of today's theme: The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, intuit and shares the presence of Jesus only through suffering and death in dialogue with all peoples, let us continue to ponder on PCP-II's vision of a Church Renewed that focuses on Discipleship in Community. In the context of the Church as a community-in-mission, it now talks of "our missionary vocation".

"C.3 A Community-in-Mission

b) Inter-Religious Dialogue

(112) Far from being opposed to evangelization, 'Inter-religious dialogue is a part of the Church's evangelizing mission'. On our part, this dialogue must be premised on the fact that: (1) salvation in Jesus Christ is offered to all; (2) God 'makes himself present in many ways ... to the entire peoples through their

spiritual riches'; (3) 'the Church is the ordinary means of salvation' and that alone possesses the fullness of the means of salvation.

(113) Given these basic religious convictions we have to appreciate inter-religious dialogue as a way of seeing in our brothers and sisters of other faiths a 'ray of that truth which enlightens all men'. This task demands two movements on our part, the first towards a deeper knowledge and appreciation of our faith, and the second towards openness in understanding the religious convictions of others. 'Dialogue is based on hope and love, and will bear fruit in the Spirit.'

Now, do you have the courage of the Holy Spirit to discover Jesus Christ in all sorts of people: the peasants and farmers, the workers and the urban poor, the fishers and the indigenous people, the students and professionals, entrepreneurs and big business people, public servants and Church people, men, women, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, straight, prostitute, drug addict, killer and criminal, corrupt, sinner, saint, good men and women of integrity, Rightists, Moderates, Leftists? Can you do that as an individual ... as a couple ... as a family ... as a group? Dare! ■

Introductory Rites

Entrance Antiphon: *(Cf. Matt 3:16-17)*

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *Amen.*

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: *And with your spirit.*

Introduction and Welcome

P: Dear brothers and sisters: we celebrate today the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. So, let us ask for the grace to see him as the Redeemer whose mission of justice and peace for all peoples and all creation cannot but entail suffering and pain and death. Let us also ask for the special grace that we may be able to follow him, baptized as we are in his name, to share his mission with all peoples and creation without distinction as to race and nationality, gender and sexual orientation, religion and ideology and as to the presence and absence of faith.

Penitential Act

P: Brothers and sisters: to celebrate worthily these sacred mysteries, let us now recall to mind our sins and ask God's loving forgiveness and compassion.

P: I confess...

A: *to Almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and*

in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore, I ask blessed Mary ever-virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

P: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

C: *Amen.*

P: Lord, have mercy.

C: *Lord, have mercy.*

P: Christ, have mercy.

C: *Christ, have mercy.*

P: Lord, have mercy.

C: *Lord, have mercy.*

C: *Amen.*

Gloria

Glory to God in the Highest!

And on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect

P: Let us pray: Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children

by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Is 42:1-4, 6-7

L: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the LORD: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. a bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench, until he establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching.

I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Commentary on Is 42:1-4, 6-7:

This is the first of the four songs of the Suffering Servant. The exact identity of the Suffering Servant is not known. He could be both an individual singular person and/or a representation of a collectivity. Whomever God delights in and is pleased with will receive a mission from Him. It is the mission of Justice

and Peace to all nations. It is God's justice that liberates for peace. The receiver of this mission will suffer and die for the cause of God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Give to the LORD, you sons of God, give to the LORD glory and praise, Give to the LORD the glory due his name; adore the LORD in holy attire.

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

The voice of the LORD is over the waters, the LORD, over vast waters. The voice of the LORD is mighty; the voice of the LORD is majestic.

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

The God of glory thunders, and in his temple all say, "Glory!" The LORD is enthroned above the flood; the LORD is enthroned as king forever.

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Commentary on Ps 29:

In this very short poem, God's name appears 18 times. An adaptation of an old Canaanite poem, this song has been transformed by the psalmist into a hymn that celebrates the supremacy of God whose presence fills all things. There is nothing in creation that is not penetrated by the glorious and mighty presence of God. The true believer intuitively senses this presence of God in the little dainty things and in the torrents and thunders of creation.

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-38

L: The second reading from the Acts of the Apostles

3 Peter proceeded to speak to those gathered in the house of Cornelius,

saying: “In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Commentary on Acts 10:34-38

Finally, Peter understood the message of Jesus. God does not discriminate people, no matter what their race and nation and religion may be. Whoever fears=loves him and acts justly and honorably is acceptable to him. The example of this non-discriminating God is Jesus Christ himself: he went about doing good, healing those oppressed by the devil. And “God was with him”.

Alleluia Verse: (Mark 9:7)

R: Alleluia, alleluia. The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, listen to him! **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel: Mk 1:7-11

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And with your spirit.*

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

C: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with

water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: *Praise be to you, O Lord Jesus Christ.*

Commentary on Mk 1:7-11

The heart of Jesus’ baptism story in the gospel of Mark comes in the appearance of the Holy Trinity: Jesus’ baptism is not one for the forgiveness of sins, which John’s baptism has been. Rather, it is a confirmation of his identity and mission: the son of God will obediently give his life so that sinners will obtain forgiveness and salvation!

The breaking up of the heavens has re-opened the closed doors of eternal life, thanks to the Spirit that descended like a dove and inspired the person of the newly-baptized Jesus. With the re-opening of heaven, the Father has destroyed the barriers that separated heaven and earth. Thanks to his Son, the Father has crossed the frontiers of separation. In his son, God has lost his privileged position on earth. In this man Jesus, humanity has regained its privileged position in heaven!

The Holy Trinity is now present in human history in the world. The second person, Jesus, is decisively proclaimed the Son of God; the Holy Spirit has confirmed his identity. And now, his mission has been given: he will suffer and die for the cause of God for the sake of humanity. That is what it means to be loved by God, to be preferentially loved by God. All others outside of this standard are fake messiahs!

Homily: The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, intuitively and shares the presence of Jesus only through suffering and death in dialogue with all peoples.

Summary of the Sunday Reading Message	Concrete description of the poor people and their situation	Reflection/ Points for reflection/ Call/ Challenge
The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, intuitively and shares the presence of Jesus only through suffering and death in dialogue with all peoples.	In your community, are there people who serve the poor by making them slaves to their wealth, power and influence? How is their generosity affecting the poor and your BEC and parish ministry for justice and peace?	“Salvation in Jesus Christ is offered to all; God ‘makes himself present in many ways to the entire peoples through their spiritual riches’; ‘the Church is the ordinary means of salvation’

Profession of Faith

A: I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, For our sake he was crucified under

Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the Faithful:

P: Dear sisters and brothers: let us now elevate our hearts and minds to God our Father, and, with joy, humbly present to him our prayers. For every prayer let our response be: Lord, hear our prayer.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

L: Let us pray for the Church: that, being a Church of the Poor spread all over the world, she may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit in her continuing missionary activity of giving witness to God’s justice and peace with all peoples of all social classes, faith traditions, nationalities and races, varied sexual identities and orientations and with unbelievers. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

L: For our Holy Father, Pope Francis I, for the bishops, priests, deacons, for those in consecrated life and for all those who are entrusted with the care and administration of the church as People of God: that, by sharing the sentiments of the heart of Christ, they may continue to serve as missionaries

of God's love, justice and peace by working together with all people of different faith traditions, different political ideologies, theists and atheists through genuine dialogue for the care of our inhabited earth and the whole creation. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

L: For world leaders and all those entrusted with governance and administration of the goods of the earth: that they may continue to promote the common good by providing spaces for differences of beliefs and religions, uphold freedom of religion and human rights and promote inter-cultural dialogue and genuine mutual respect in human encounters. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

L: For all of us, inhabitants of the earth and citizens of heaven: that we may inspire one another to envision and build a future human community as communion, by promoting social movements that address the rights and welfare of peoples, social reform and radical change in the structures of society through meaningful dialogue and effective action as our share in the mission of Jesus. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, Lord, hear our prayer.

L: For our beloved dead: that in the forgiveness of their sins, they may find eternal rest in the heart of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

L: For our special intentions, in the silence of our hearts. (*pause*)... Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, Lord, hear our prayer.

P: Lord God of love and

compassion, listen to the prayers of your people. Help us to prepare the way of your Son when he comes again in glory. We ask this through the Christ our Lord.

R: Amen

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Altar and the Gifts

P: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,

C: Blessed be God forever.

P: Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

C: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P: Accept, O Lord, the offerings we have brought to honor the revealing of your beloved Son, so that the oblation of your faithful may be transformed into the sacrifice of him who willed in his compassion to wash away the sins of the world. Who lives and reigns forever and ever.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Eucharist

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right and just.

P: It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in the waters of the Jordan you revealed with signs and wonders a new Baptism, so that through the voice that came down from heaven we might come to believe in your Word dwelling among us, and by the Spirit's descending in the likeness of a dove we might know that Christ your Servant has been anointed with the oil of gladness and sent to bring the good news to the poor.

And so, with the Powers of heaven, we worship you constantly on earth, and before your majesty without end we acclaim:

A: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Acclamation

P: The mystery of faith.

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**

*(Concluding the Eucharistic Prayer,
the priest says:)*

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever.

C: Amen.

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer

Doxology

C: For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever.

Sign of Peace

P: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles; Peace ... Who live and reign for ever and ever.

C: Amen.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And with your spirit.

P: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Breaking of the Bread

A: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world ... grant us peace.

Communion

P: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

A: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon:

(John 1:32,34)

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray: Nourished with these sacred gifts, we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord, that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son, we may be your children in name and in truth. Through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Final Blessing

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

P: Bow down for the blessing: May the Lord bless you and keep you.

C: Amen.

P: May he let his face shine upon you and show you his mercy.

C: *Amen.*

P: May he turn his countenance towards you and give you his peace.

C: *Amen.*

P: And may the blessings of almighty God, + the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you forever.

C: *Amen.*

Dismissal

P: Go in the peace of Christ.

C: *Thanks be to God.* ■

Join Fr. Ben Alforque, MSC of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in **GOSPEL BREAK**, a short yet entertaining and insightful discussion of this Sunday's Gospel on YouTube.

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