



**Thirtieth Sunday Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Prison Awareness Sunday
October 26, 2014**

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, imbibes Christ's love and compassion by inseparably worshiping God and serving the poor!

Today the Church celebrates Prison Awareness Sunday. Let us remember the prisoners in our jails: those who committed crimes, those who are unjustly imprisoned without committing any crime, the prisoners of war, the political prisoners and prisoners of conscience. In a profound sense, let us pray for one another, because by our unconcern for the plight of the poor, we have allowed the whole land to be a huge prison cell for us all. Let us declare our freedom, then, and break the walls of prison by being and doing good. In this light, let us continue to ponder on PCP-II's vision of a Church Renewed that focuses now on Discipleship in Community. It says:

“C.1 The Church is a Communion

a) Unity in Diversity

(93) Vatican II has highlighted the same characteristics of the Church. It describes the universal church as “a people made one with the unity of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”. And the Council also points out that in the Church there is diversity: “not everyone marches along the same path ... by Christ's will some are established as teachers, dispensers of the mysteries and pastors for others.” And it underlines the sharing and mutual interaction in the Church.

(94) Between all the various parts of the Church there is a bond of close communion whereby spiritual riches, apostolic workers and temporal resources are shared. For the members of the People of God are called upon to share their goods, and the words of the apostle apply also to each of the Churches, “according to the gift that each has received, administer it to one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

In the context of the Church as Communion which promotes Unity in Diversity, how does one become good? How does one do the good? ■

Introductory Rites

Entrance Antiphon:

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

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

C: Amen.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

Introduction and Welcome

P: Welcome, dear friends, brothers and sisters, to this celebration of God's love and life which he so generously and freely shared with us. In a special way, let us pray to God for the freedom to be good and to do good. Let us pray for the freedom and transformation of the prisoners in our jails, prisons and detention cells: those who are imprisoned for their crimes, those unjustly jailed because they have not committed any crime, the prisoners of war, the political detainees and prisoners of conscience. We pray for ourselves for, by our lack of concern for the poor, we have made the whole land, God's gift, a huge prison camp for us all.

Penitential Act

P: Brothers and sisters, let us now turn to God for his love and compassion, to pardon our sins and to free us from our own prison cells.

P: Lord Jesus, you call us to be stewards of creation. Forgive us for neglecting our environment to its destruction. Lord, have mercy.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Lord Jesus, you call us to be dispensers of your gifts. Forgive us for not developing these gifts and offering these gifts as service to others. Christ, have mercy.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: Lord Jesus, you call us to communion with you and with one another. Forgive us for our failure to share our spiritual riches, apostolic works and temporal resources. Lord, have mercy.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

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, increase our faith, hope and charity, and make us love what you command, so that we may merit what you promise. 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: Ex 22:20-26

L: A reading from the Book of Exodus

Thus says the LORD: "You shall not

molest or oppress an alien, for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt. You shall not wrong any widow or orphan. If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry. My wrath will flare up, and I will kill you with the sword; then your own wives will be widows, and your children orphans.

“If you lend money to one of your poor neighbors among my people, you shall not act like an extortionist toward him by demanding interest from him. If you take your neighbor’s cloak as a pledge, you shall return it to him before sunset; for this cloak of his is the only covering he has for his body. What else has he to sleep in? If he cries out to me, I will hear him; for I am compassionate.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Commentary on Ex 22:20-26:

This is part of the Code of the Covenant. It is fundamentally rooted in the love and compassion of God and of every human being for the neighbor. Called an apodictic legislation, because it is a series of imperatives, it particularizes the Ten Commandments. It learns from the past as the basis for Israel’s ethical and moral behavior in its present life in Canaan. These specifications, which go beyond the Ten Commandments, when applied to the present situation in Canaan, actually prepare and guide Israel in its journey towards the future. By our love and compassion for our neighbor, the alien, the poor, the debtor disappear. Everyone becomes brother and sister to each other, sharing the goods of the earth, in the love and compassion of God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51

R: *I love you, Lord, my strength.*

I love you, O LORD, my strength, O LORD, my rock, my fortress, my deliverer.

R: *I love you, Lord, my strength.*

My God, my rock of refuge, my shield, the horn of my salvation, my stronghold! Praised be the LORD, I exclaim, and I am safe from my enemies.

R: *I love you, Lord, my strength.*

The LORD lives and blessed be my rock! Extolled be God my savior. You who gave great victories to your king and showed kindness to your anointed.

R: *I love you, Lord, my strength.*

Commentary on Psalm 18:

This is a hymn. The psalmist expresses his trust and confidence in God. He praises God as his deliverer and refuge from his adversaries. God’s works of deliverance is not just a personal experience of the psalmist but an event of his people, when God gives victories to the king.

Second Reading: 1 Thess 1:5c-10

L: The second reading from the Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

Brothers and sisters: You know what sort of people we were among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, receiving the word in great affliction, with joy from the Holy Spirit, so that you became a model for all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth not only in Macedonia and in Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has

gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. For they themselves openly declare about us what sort of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God and to await his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus, who delivers us from the coming wrath.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Commentary on 1 Thes 1:1-5b:

Paul now commends the Thessalonian Christian community for having become imitators of him and of Christ. The characteristics of this imitation lie in “receiving the word in great affliction” and yet with joy from the Holy Spirit. The Thessalonian converts have become a model to other Christian converts in Macedonia, Achaia and in other places who have heard of their faith in God. They have abandoned idols, turned to serve the true and living God and, in hope, await the coming of Jesus Christ, who will effect the final deliverance. In great affliction but with joy!

R: Alleluia, alleluia. Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him and we will come to him! **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel: Matt 22:34-40

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And with your spirit.*

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

C: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a scholar of the law tested him by asking, “Teacher, which commandment in the

law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Commentary on Matt 22:34-40

To the question: which commandment of the Law is the greatest, the Pharisees were thinking of the 613 precepts of the Law. The answer of Jesus was to combine Deut 6:5 with Lev 19:18: You shall love your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might + You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord. By combining both texts, Jesus is saying: love of God and love of neighbor are one. Love as solidarity has two inseparable directions: going out from oneself to God and to one’s neighbor. This is Jesus’ fundamental teaching on love. It perfects the Law and the Prophets. Without loving the neighbor, one cannot love God; one cannot love God without loving the neighbor.

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.

Visit gospelbreak.wordpress.com. Or scan this QR code with your Smartphone or tablet.



Homily: The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, imbibes Christ's love and compassion by inseparably worshipping God and serving the poor!

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, imbibes Christ's love and compassion by inseparably worshipping God and serving the poor!	Who are the prisoners in the jail or prison cell closest to you? Who are the prisoners of war, the political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in your area? Have you visited a prison? What are you, your BEC and parish doing for your own freedom and the freedom of the prisoners?	By our love and compassion for our neighbor, the alien, the poor, the debtor disappear. Everyone becomes brother and sister to each other, sharing the goods of the earth, in the love and compassion of God.

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, we now humbly ask God to hear our prayers, for he is a God of love and compassion. For every prayer let our response be: Lord, help us to imitate your Son.

R: Lord, help us to imitate your Son.

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 care for all kinds of prisoners by tirelessly working for the education and practice of truth, forgiveness, freedom, justice, liberation and peace. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, help us to imitate your Son.

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 give witness to freedom and truth by reclaiming once again the seven corporal works of mercy in the spirit of justice, peace and integrity of creation. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, help us to imitate your Son.

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 truthfully dispensing genuine justice, work for the just release of all kinds of prisoners and hold accountable those responsible for the poverty, oppression and injustice suffered by the people. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, help us to imitate your Son.

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 dismantling the walls of physical prison cells and the prisons of greed, hatred and violence through visits to prisoners, caring for their needs and by working for their transformation, just release and re-integration into a society that strives to be just, loving, caring and honest. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, help us to imitate your Son.

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, help us to imitate your Son.

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

R: Lord, help us to imitate your Son.

P: Lord God, please, look down upon your people in humble prayer. Grant to us release from all kinds of imprisonment, abduction and forced

disappearances and from all types of violence and brutal death that plague our society and people. We ask this through 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: Look, we pray, O Lord, on the offerings we make to your majesty, that whatever is done by us in your service may be directed above all to your glory. Through Christ our Lord.

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, through Christ our Lord.

For out of compassion for the waywardness that is ours, he humbled

himself and was born of the Virgin; by the passion of the Cross, he freed us from unending death, and by rising from the dead, he gave us life eternal.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as 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.

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, 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:

Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, as a fragrant offering to God.

Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray: May your Sacraments, O Lord, we pray, perfect in us what lies within them, that what we now celebrate in signs we may one day possess 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: The hearts of your faithful submitted to your name, entreat your help, O Lord, and since without you they can do nothing that is just, grant by your abundant mercy that they may both know what is right and receive all that they need for their good. Through Christ our Lord.

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 forth the mass is ended.

C: Thanks be to God. ■

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no matter how small.

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