



Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 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, prepares for the Lord's coming only by partnering with the people in the work for just social change.

In light of today's theme: The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, can prepare for the Lord's coming only by partnering with the people in the work for a just social change, 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

A) Our Missionary Vocation

(106) For the Church in the Philippines, these words should have a special resonance. Our Church, in this only country in Asia with a predominantly Catholic population, should be a missionary Church. Pope John Paul II spoke with special clarity when he said to the Philippine Bishops, 'There is

no doubt about it: the Philippines has a special missionary vocation to proclaim the Good News, to carry the light of Christ to the nations.' While it is true that the Church has a mission towards Philippine society, it has also a very definite mission to the other peoples of Asia.

(107) God is launching us into a new age of mission. We need to be open, daring and thankful. There are now about a thousand Filipino missionaries (priests, religious and lay faithful) abroad. The Fil-Mission Society and the Philippine Lay Mission Society are both flourishing. Mission congregations are recruiting and sending abroad many of their members. These are among the many signs of missionary awakening for which we thank the Lord of the harvest."

Did it ever occur to you that you can be a missionary too, here wherever you may be, and there wherever you may want to go? The mission of God knows no limits, in time and space. Your witness of a living faith makes you a missionary in your own backyard, in your own family. Or you may like to have some special training on how to make your life of faith shine in any work you'll do in another place, in another land. As an individual ...as a couple ...as a family! Dare! ■

Introductory Rites

Entrance Antiphon: *(Isaiah 30:19,30)*

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

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: Dear brothers and sisters: we celebrate today the Second Sunday of Advent. Let us ask the Lord of the harvest to make us worthy to celebrate the birth of his Son and to prepare for his coming by awakening in us a new sense of mission and a more profound sense of partnership with the people in carrying out the task of evangelization and total social transformation.

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Lord God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin.

(Lighting of the two Candles) Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath; may their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever.

R. *Amen.*

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* **2**

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 and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. 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: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

L: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Commentary on Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11:

Is 40-55 for a long time has been dubbed the “Second Isaiah”. This was probably written by an unknown prophet whose ministry covered the period of Israel’s Babylonian exile, at that point when Cyrus of Persia was ascending into power. Cyrus became emperor (539 BCE); his politics was of tolerance which culminated in the edict of repatriation of the Jews (538 BCE; see Is 41:2-ff.; 45:1-

3). Here is the exhortation of comfort, of consolation! The vision of return from exile is announced: the exile of Israel is also its moment of redemption, because the exile has purified her. This good news fills the people with great joy. Because it is Yahweh’s Word, and not just the prophet’s “words”. The test of Yahweh’s Word lies in his being a shepherd of his flock. The flock, the people, have a share in the shepherd’s supreme responsibility: they prepare his way!

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14

R: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what God proclaims; the LORD—for he proclaims peace to his people. Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land.

R: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven.

R: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

The LORD himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase. Justice shall walk before him, and prepare the way of his steps.

R: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Commentary on Psalm 85:

This psalm may be divided into three parts: (a) thanksgiving (vv. 2-4), (b) a plea (vv. 5-8), (c) a commentary on an oracle (vv. 9-14). Today’s Responsorial Psalm is the third part of Ps 85: a commentary on an oracle. The Lord is the salvation, the peace and the glory of the people. The royal court is described by personifications: kindness and truth meeting, justice and

peace kissing. When God visits, he will fill everything with abundance. His visit is prepared by justice.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

L: The second reading from the Second Letter of Peter

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,” but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out.

Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Commentary on 2 Pt 3:8-14

The context of these verses is the author’s refuting those who deny the parousia – the coming of Jesus on the last day. There is no “delay” in the eternity of God. The human reckoning of time perceives the “delay” of

the last day; divine time, however, allows the day of the Lord to certainly come, but God, in his patience, will take time in order to give an opportunity for all to be saved. How then should a Christian behave in these last times? The Christian’s holiness and devotion, his active waiting and engagement in justice will hasten the arrival of the new heaven and the new earth. The Christian can do so only with a heart of integrity and honesty.

R: Alleluia, alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God! **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

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.*

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he 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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Commentary on Mark 1:1-8

The decisive new time of salvation has come. John the Baptist, the final spokesperson of the old times, has come to proclaim the arrival of the one who ushers in the new time of definitive and final salvation. A new exodus and liberation is going to take place in the person of Jesus. He is the Messiah, the Christ, whom everyone in history has been looking and waiting for. He is the true and the only Son of God. His decisive and final push for salvation intrinsically involves the people: they prepare his way; they call on one another to be good, to be just because he is coming to bring their goodness to perfection.

The action of baptism – immersing into the water – is a significant act of cleansing: the sins are washed away and every human being is purified. A new exodus is taking place. The baptized emerges and becomes a new creation, a new humanity.

The role of John the Baptist is clarified: he is a prophet. The role of Jesus is made clear: he is the Christ. John's baptism is externally experienced: he baptizes with water. The baptism of Jesus is an interior event: he baptizes with the Holy Spirit. The baptism of the Holy Spirit as an interior event touches the deepest part of the human person: the heart, the conscience; and then, it creeps and erupts into one's personal, social and communitarian life: a life of love and solidarity! This is possible because the people are pre-disposed to the coming of their savior, to the initiative of God for love and liberation!

Homily: The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, prepares for the Lord's coming only by partnering with the people in the work for just social change.

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, prepares for the Lord's coming only by partnering with the people in the work for just social change.	What are the concrete initiatives of the poor and the marginalized sectors in your community, BEC and parish that promote personal integrity, honesty, social justice and total integral transformation? What is your role in them?	"The Philippines has a special missionary vocation to proclaim the Good News, to carry the light of Christ to the nations." The people's responsibility: they prepare the liberator's-savior's way!

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

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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 humbly present to him our prayers. For every prayer let our response be: Lord, help us prepare the way of your Son.

R: Lord, help us prepare the way of 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 continuing partnership with the peoples of the world in the common mission of proclaiming the Good News begun by the birth of Jesus and in preparing the way of the Lord when He comes again. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, help us prepare the way of 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 make real the baptismal vows through a life of holiness, love and solidarity and the practice of justice that will bring about fundamental real and integral transformation of persons and society. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, help us prepare the way of 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 daring to put a stop to State and civilian terrorism through building long-term sustainable basic human communities, halt the arms race and the proliferation of weapons of death and destruction by promoting international understanding and just sharing of the goods of the earth, and to uphold the dignity and rights of the human person by arresting human trafficking and the exploitation of men, women and children in the sex trade and cyberpornography. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, help us prepare the way of 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 promoting inter-generational and inter-cultural dialogue, participating in social movements, genuine labor unionism, and free associations and cooperatives of peasant-farmers, youth and students, professionals and married couples and by stimulating solidarity ties among the different social classes as a deeper way of preparing the way of the Lord and celebrating the joy of Christmas. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, help us prepare the way of 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 prepare the way of your Son.

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

R: Lord, help us prepare the way of your Son.

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: Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings, and, since we have no merits to plead our cause, come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy. 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 he assumed at his first coming the lowliness of human flesh, and so fulfilled the design you formed long ago, and opened for us the way to eternal salvation, that, when he comes again in glory and majesty and all is at last made manifest, we who watch for that day may inherit the great promise in which now we dare to hope.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts of 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: (Baruch 5:5;4:36)

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which come to you from God.

Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray: Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, through our partaking in this mystery, you may teach us to judge wisely the things on earth and hold firm to the things of heaven. 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 almighty and merciful God, by whose grace you have placed your faith in the First Coming of his Only Begotten Son and yearn for his coming again, sanctify

you by the radiance of Christ's Advent and enrich you with his blessing.

C: Amen.

P: As you run the race of this present life, may he make you firm in faith, joyful in hope and active in charity.

C: Amen.

P: So that, rejoicing now with devotion at the Redeemer's coming in the flesh, you may be endowed with the rich reward of eternal life when he comes again in majesty.

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.

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 peace, and be watchful always.

C: Thanks be to God. ■

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