



**Sixth Sunday of Easter –  
Mothers' Day  
May 10, 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, exercises Christian love only by laying down her life in service to all people, especially the poor.**

On this Sixth Sunday of Easter, the Church invites us to live fruitfully our unity and communion with Jesus by believing in Him, that is to say, by laying down our life in the service of the people, especially the poor. In this spirit let us continue to reflect on the Church as Discipleship in Community, this time as Church of the Poor, articulated by the PCP-II. Listen to what PCP-II has to say:

### **“C.5 The Church of the Poor**

#### **What then is the ‘Church of the Poor’?**

(131) The “Church of the Poor” means, in the words of Pope John Paul II, that: “Before today’s forms of exploitation of the poor, the Church cannot remain silent. She

also reminds the rich of their precise duties. Strong with the Word of God, she condemns the many injustices which unfortunately, even today are committed to the detriment of the poor.” Pastors and members of the Church will courageously defend and vindicate the rights of the poor and the oppressed, even when doing so will mean alienation or persecution from the rich and powerful.

(132) The ‘Church of the Poor’ will also mean that the Church will not only evangelize the poor, but that the poor in the Church will themselves become evangelizers. Pastors and leaders will learn to be with, work with, and learn from the poor. A ‘Church of the Poor’ will not only render preferential service to the poor but will practice preferential reliance on the poor in the work of evangelization.”

In this Year of the Poor, the bishops, following Jesus, say that the word for the poor is: Blessed are you poor; while for the rich, it is: Woe to you who are rich. Why did Jesus and the bishops in obedience to Him, say so to the poor and to the rich? ■

## Entrance Antiphon (Cf. Is 48:20)

*Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.*

## Introductory Rites

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

C: *Amen*

P: The Peace of the Risen Lord be with you.

C: *And with your spirit.*

## Introduction and Welcome

P: Dear brothers and sisters, let us continue to relish our Easter joy and peace which only the Risen Lord can give. In a very special way, today we ask the Risen Lord to strengthen the ranks of the poor who have come together to proclaim and reclaim their rights as citizens of heaven. We also pray for the rich and oppressors that, by asking why is it simply wrong to be rich while the poor are poor, they may have a change of heart and learn to “fight the poverty of the poor”. Let us also pray for our mothers today that they may continue to be caretakers of life, not only of their children, but of all children, especially the poor children.

## Penitential Act

P: Brethren (brothers and sisters), to prepare ourselves to celebrate worthily these great sacred mysteries, let us now acknowledge our sins, and ask God for pardon and strength:

P: I confess..

C: *to almighty God...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*

## Gloria

Glory to God in the highest 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: Grant, Almighty God, that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy, which we keep in honor of the risen Lord, and that what we relive in remembrance we may always hold to in what we do. 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: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48**

L: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and, falling at his feet, paid him homage. Peter, however, raised him up, saying, “Get up. I myself am also a human being.” Then Peter proceeded to speak and said, “In truth, I see that God shows

no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him.” While Peter was still speaking these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the word. The circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit should have been poured out on the Gentiles also, for they could hear them speaking in tongues and glorifying God. Then Peter responded, “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit even as we have?” He ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

L: The Word of the Lord.  
C: *Thanks be to God.*

#### **Commentary on Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48:**

Traditionally this story has been called “the conversion of Cornelius”, a pagan Roman citizen, captain of 100 soldiers, God-fearing, a man of prayer and of charity towards the poor. Actually this story is about the conversion of Peter, who in prayer, was debating on what to do with the pagans who were asking to be baptized. Peter’s vision freed him from prejudices, taboos and discrimination. More profoundly, no one is impure anymore by virtue of race, ethnicity, gender and religion. All are called to believe in Jesus Christ. To follow Jesus one doesn’t have to become a Jew. The Holy Spirit makes us equally share the dignity of being children of God.

#### **Responsorial Psalm: Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4**

**R: *The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power. or: R. Alleluia.***

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done wondrous deeds; His right hand has won victory for him, his holy arm.

**R: *The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power. or: R. Alleluia.***

The LORD has made his salvation

known: in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice. He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness toward the house of Israel.

**R: *The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power. or: R. Alleluia.***

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation by our God. Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands; break into song; sing praise.

**R. *The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power. or: R. Alleluia.***

#### **Commentary on Ps 98:**

This is a hymn to the universal King and Lord. It sings of the marvelous things the Lord has done to his people: the salvation of the people is attained through acts of Justice. All creation are witnesses to this victorious act of God. Therefore, they sing praises to honor him.

#### **Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-10**

L: The second reading is taken from the First Letter of John

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.

L: The Word of the Lord.  
C: *Thanks be to God.*

#### **Commentary on 1 John 4:7-10**

God is love. God’s love is the fundamental ground for our relationship with one another and with Him. How did He love us? By sending into the world his only Son so that we might have real life through him. What consists his love? That He has loved us first through his Son

for the forgiveness of sins; therefore, now we can love God in return. How can we love God in return? The Christian's proof of love of God is his love of neighbor. Nothing else. Love is the more vibrant expression of faith. Christian faith embraces above all the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross from which his blood flowed for our sake.

**Alleluia Verse: John 14:23**

**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. **R: Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel: John 15: 9-17**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And with your spirit.*

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John

C: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

Jesus said to his disciples: "As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy might be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Commentary on John 15: 9-17**

The quality of Christian love is expressed in sacrifice: "laying down one's life for one's friends", and obedience: "You are my friends if you do what I command you", in self-revelation and encounter: "I have called you friends because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father", and commitment and fidelity: "I chose you .. so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you." The root of this Christian love is Jesus. His way of loving makes the whole difference from all other types of love.

**Homily: The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, exercises Christian love only by laying down her life in service to all people, especially 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, exercises Christian love only by laying down her life in service to all people, especially the poor.	List down the forms of exploitation which the poor in your community are victims of. List down the reasons why the exploiters deal with them unjustly. List down the individuals and groups working for/with the poor.	"Members of the Church will courageously defend and vindicate the rights of the poor and the oppressed, even when doing so will mean alienation/persecution from the rich and powerful."

**Profession of Faith:**

## General Intercessions

P: Dear sisters and brothers, let us humbly and confidently raise our voices in prayer to our heavenly Father. For every prayer let our response be: Lord, help us lay down our life for others.

**R: Lord, help us lay down our life for others.**

L: Let us pray for the Church: that being a Church of the Poor spread all over the world, she may continue to exercise Christian love by the deepest and only way: by laying down her life in service to all people, especially the poor. Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Lord, help us lay down our life for others.**

L: For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, 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, before today's forms of exploitation of the poor they may not remain silent, that they also remind the rich of their precise duties, condemn the many injustices which today are committed to the detriment of the poor, and courageously defend and vindicate the rights of the poor and the oppressed, even when doing so means alienation or persecution from the rich and powerful. Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Lord, help us lay down our life for others.**

L: For world leaders and all those entrusted with governance and administration of the goods of the earth: that they may enact laws and build structures that promote justice and liberation of the poor, welcoming and hospitable to migrant labor, supportive of just development and solidarity as our way to peace, mutual understanding and international cooperation. Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Lord, help us lay down our life for others.**

L: For all of us, inhabitants of the earth

and citizens of heaven: that we may live our lives according to the values of the new life lived in common by upholding the beauty of motherhood as the bearer and caretaker of the gift of life, by defending the value of motherhood not just as a personal calling and duty but a social calling and obligation as well, for every mother is mother to all children. Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Lord, help us lay down our life for others.**

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 lay down our life for others.**

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

**R: Lord, help us lay down our life for others.**

P: Lord, these are the prayers we present to you today. By your Spirit enable us to stay intimately with Jesus, as branches to the vine. Help us to be friends to one another by our readiness to love and lay down our lives for others, especially the poor. As we thank you for our mothers, we ask you to help them be mothers to all children anywhere and everywhere in the world. We ask this through same Christ our Risen 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: May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord, together with the sacrificial offerings, so that, purified by your graciousness, we may be conformed to the mysteries of your mighty love. 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, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but on this day above all to laud you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.

By the oblation of his Body, he brought the sacrifices of old to fulfillment in the reality of the Cross and, by commending himself to you for our salvation, showed himself the Priest, the Altar, and the Lamb of sacrifice.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they 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 14:15-16**

*If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you forever, alleluia.*

### Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray: Almighty ever-living God, who restore us to eternal life in the Resurrection of Christ, increase in us, we pray, the fruits of this paschal Sacrament and pour into our hearts the strength of this saving food. 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 God, who by the Resurrection of his Only Begotten Son was pleased to confer on you the gift of redemption and of adoption, give you gladness by his blessing.

C: *Amen.*

P: May he, by whose redeeming work you have received the gift of everlasting freedom, make you heirs to an eternal inheritance.

C: *Amen.*

P: And may you, who have already risen with Christ in Baptism through faith, by living in a right manner on earth, be united with him in the homeland of heaven.

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 and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.* ■

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