



Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity May 22, 2016

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, is one with the Holy Trinity through Wisdom that confronts injustice and oppression posing as virtues.

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. The Father who creates, the Son who redeems and the Holy Spirit who sanctifies have revealed themselves in the former times, and in our liturgical seasons, from Advent to Pentecost Sunday. We celebrate this feast of the fullness of the self-revelation of God: the Holy Trinity, three Persons in one God. With our theme for today, let us reflect on PCP-II's "A Renewed Integral Evangelization" when it says:

"PART III. A RENEWED INTEGRAL EVANGELIZATION

A. ANNOUNCING A MESSAGE OF SALVATION

"8. Special Concerns

b) Fundamentalists and the Iglesia ni Kristo

(218) Unfortunately, the coming of aggressive fundamentalist groups has not helped the ecumenical situation at all. Both the Catholic Church and the mainline non-Catholic Churches bear the biased onslaughts

of these fundamentalist groups, reminiscent of a less enlightened age of religious conflict that we thought has long passed.

(219) Their coming in great numbers to our shores in recent years, with the avowed aim of "evangelizing" the Filipinos has created a special problem for the Church. Their persistence, their use of radio, TV, and print media, their attacks on Catholic teachings and practices, especially against Marian devotion and the use of religious statues, have won over a number of Catholics in their ranks. A large part of their mass appeal comes from their able preachers, well-advertised healing sessions, and their peculiar interpretation of Scripture.

(220) The Iglesia ni Kristo is an indigenous semi-Christian group that does not believe in the divinity of Christ. It was founded more than 75 years ago by Felix Manalo and is similar in nature to these fundamentalist and evangelical groups except perhaps that it has been more virulent in its attacks, and has become a very important political force in the country. Its members have also increased remarkably in number and they have retained their cohesion and discipline.

Points for Reflection: Are there fundamentalist groups in your parish and BEC? Are you a fundamentalist and fanatic Catholic yourself? This fundamentalist attitude has caused division. ■

Entrance Antiphon:

Blessed be God the Father, and the Only Begotten Son of God, and also the Holy Spirit, for he has shown us his merciful love.

Introductory Rites

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: on this Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, let us continue to ask God's special grace to be aware of our Christian and Catholic heritage as the prophetic conscience of our people. Today let us ask for the special gift of Wisdom that can discern and confront the evils of injustice and oppression masquerading as virtues. Thus we will always be in communion with the Holy Trinity: the home of wholesome life, authentic love and genuine holiness.

Penitential Act

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

P: Lord Jesus, forgive us for avoiding and suppressing Wisdom in us and among us. Lord, have mercy.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Christ Jesus, forgive us for losing faith and hope in the midst of affliction and despair. Christ, have mercy.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: Lord Jesus, forgive us for agreeing to the sin of injustice and violence for our convenience and security. 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: God our Father, who by sending into the world the Word of truth and the Spirit of sanctification made known to the human race your wondrous mystery, grant us, we pray, that in professing the true faith, we may acknowledge the Trinity of eternal glory and adore your Unity, powerful in majesty. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

C: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Prv 8:22-31

L: A reading from the Book of Proverbs

Thus says the wisdom of God: “The LORD possessed me, the beginning of his ways, the forerunner of his prodigies of long ago; from of old I was poured forth, at the first, before the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no fountains or springs of water; before the mountains were settled into place, before the hills, I was brought forth; while as yet the earth and fields were not made, nor the first clods of the world.

“When the Lord established the heavens I was there, when he marked out the vault over the face of the deep; when he made firm the skies above, when he fixed fast the foundations of the earth; when he set for the sea its limit, so that the waters should not transgress his command; then was I beside him as his craftsman, and I was his delight day by day, playing before him all the while, playing on the surface of his earth; and I found delight in the human race.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Commentary on Prv 8:22-31:

This is a hymn to Wisdom. One of Wisdom’s essential characteristics, or part of its nature, is being present intimately with the Creator, the author of all beings. Wisdom has always been from eternity God’s companion in his being and in his works. Wisdom has declared herself a gift to all creation, because she delights in them, because God is pleased with her.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

R: *O Lord, our God, how wonderful your name in all the earth!*

When I behold your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you set in place — What is man that you should be mindful of him, or the son of man that you should care for him?

R: *O Lord, our God, how wonderful your name in all the earth!*

You have made him little less than the angels, and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him rule over the works of your hands, putting all things under his feet.

R: *O Lord, our God, how wonderful your name in all the earth!*

All sheep and oxen, yes, and the beasts of the field, The birds of the air, the fishes of the sea, and whatever swims the paths of the seas.

R: *O Lord, our God, how wonderful your name in all the earth!*

Commentary on Psalm Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9:

This is a hymn of praise. Each time we encounter a human person, we also immediately encounter God. The interplay of admiration and questioning leads the psalmist to a profound contemplation that erupts into a prayerful exclamation: how wonderful is your name, O Lord our God, in all the earth! The discovery of human dignity is also the discovery of the greatness of God. In this anthropocentric song, where every creation speaks of the Creator, humankind emerges as the darling of God.

Second Reading: Rom 5:1-5

L: A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we

have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Commentary on Rom 5:1-5

From a legal language that Paul uses to describe justification/salvation by faith, he now raises the stake to another level: the level of the ethical and moral. Justification by faith is possible because of the abundance of God's love poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. With this love – Christ's pre-disposition to be for God and for others – the Holy Spirit empowers us to pass from affliction to endurance, from endurance to tested character, and tested character to that hope of the glory of God. The consequence of this process of cultivating a Christian personality is peace.

Alleluia Verse: Cf. Rv 1:8

R: Alleluia, alleluia. Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; to God who is, who was, and who is to come. **R: Alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel: Jn 16:12-15

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And with your spirit.*

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

C: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

Jesus said to his disciples: "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Commentary on Jn 16:12-15

The work of the Spirit is to lead us to all truth. This is in the context of the Christian mission in the world that is full of hatred and persecution against what is fundamentally good. The Holy Spirit does unmask the evil and the sin of injustice in the world masquerading as acts of virtue. This Spirit alive in the community empowers the people with strength and wisdom to confront the fundamental roots of this evil and sin in their midst, equally in their individuality and as a society and in the structures of the world.

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, is one with the Holy Trinity through Wisdom that confronts injustice and oppression posing as virtues.

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, is one with the Holy Trinity through Wisdom that confronts injustice and oppression posing as virtues.	In your parish and BEC, who are most inclined to be fundamentalist and fanatic about their faith and religious practices? Why have they become fundamentalists? How do you relate to these fundamentalist sects around you?	Wisdom has declared herself a gift to all creation, because she delights in them, because God is pleased with her. The work of the Spirit is to lead us to all truth.

Profession of Faith

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, unite us in your love.

R: Lord, unite us in your love.

L: Let us pray for the Church: that, being a Church of the Poor spread all over the world, she may continue commune with the Holy Trinity by clinging to Wisdom that confronts injustice and oppression masquerading as virtues. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, unite us in your love.

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 they may come out whole as they pass from affliction to endurance, from endurance to tested character, from tested character to that hope of the glory of God. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, unite us in your love.

L: For world leaders and all those entrusted with governance and administration of the goods of the earth: that they make laws, policies and structures that promote the splendor and dignity of the human person towards genuine peace built on justice and love. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, unite us in your love.

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 being open always to the mysterious ways of God and not to reduce God to the smallness of our convictions. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, unite us in your love.

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, unite us in your love.

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

R: Lord, unite us in your love.

P: Lord, these are the prayers we present to you today. On the feast of the Holy Trinity, help us to love you and know you more, by encountering you alive in our lives and in creation, yesterday, today and tomorrow. Make us

live in communion with the Father who creates, with the Son who redeems and with the Holy Spirit that sanctifies. Mold us to become the gentle but firm hearts of your heart on earth. 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: Sanctify by the invocation of your name, we pray, O Lord our God, this oblation of our service, and by it make of us an eternal offering to you. 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.

For with your Only Begotten Son and the Holy Spirit you are one God, one Lord: not in the unity of a single person, but in a Trinity of one substance.

For what you have revealed to us of your glory we believe equally of your Son and of the Holy Spirit, so that, in the confessing of the true and eternal Godhead, you might be adored in what is proper to each Person, their unity in substance, and their equality in majesty.

For this is praised by Angels and Archangels, Cherubim, too, and Seraphim, who never cease to cry out each day, as with one voice 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 you 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: (Gal 4:6)

Since you are children of God, God has sent into your hearts the Spirit of his Son, the Spirit who cries out: Abba, Father.

Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray: May receiving this Sacrament, O Lord our God, bring us health of body and soul, as we confess your eternal holy Trinity and undivided Unity. Through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Final Blessing

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

P: Bow your heads and pray for God's blessings: May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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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