



## Pentecost Sunday May 24, 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, is Spirit-filled when she respects her plurality and eradicates divisions of social classes through actions of justice.**

On this Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Church, the Church is inviting us to contemplate on this: “On the day of Pentecost when the seven weeks of Easter had come to an end, Christ’s Passover is fulfilled in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit...” (CCC 731). 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’?**

(134) The ‘Church of the Poor’ is one where the entire community of disciples especially the rich and better off sectors of the community and its leaders and pastors, will have such a love of preference for the poor as to orient and tilt the center of gravity of the entire community in favor of the needy.

(135) The ‘Church of the Poor’ is one that is willing to follow Jesus Christ through poverty and oppression in order to carry out the work of salvation. Although she needs human resources to carry out her mission she will be aware that she ‘is not set up to seek earthly glory, but to proclaim, and this by her own example, humility and self-denial.’”

What is the place of the poor in our society and Church today? Are they considered recipients of goodness and kindness of the rich, the educated and the government’s program for the poor? Or are their problems and dreams, their struggles and projects for a better life for all are the real impetus and invitation that we all must respond to in order to genuinely transform the world? ■

## **Entrance Antiphon (Wis 1:7)**

*The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.*

## **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, 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, today we are celebrating the feast of the Pentecost, or the Descent of the Holy Spirit 50 days since Easter Sunday (7 weeks or 49 days after Easter Sunday). This is also considered the Birth of the Church. Let us rejoice and meditate with Mary and the disciples on the marvelous deeds the Lord God has done for all the people, especially the poor. May the great movement of the Holy Spirit be made more manifest in our time through the conviction of preferential love for the poor and the action for justice in the world.

## **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: O god, who by the mystery of today's great feast sanctify your whole Church in every people and nation, pour out, we pray, the gifts of the Holy Spirit across the face of the earth and, with the divine grace that was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed, fill now once more the hearts of believers.. 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 2:1-11**

L: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were.

Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his native language? We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

### **Commentary on Acts 2:1-11:**

Luke's message here is linked with the word "Pentecost". Pentecost recalls the Old Testament Covenant between God and the people at Mount Sinai. This new Pentecost is the time of the New Covenant between God and all men and women in human history. Luke next depicts a scene that combines Old Testament imageries of God's intervention: wind, spirit and fire. Tongues of fire make peoples understand different human tongues! We have here an audio-visual presentation of God's intervention! Then the scene shifts outside the room where the disciples gathered. All people from all nations gather and hear each other speak their own language: the Gospel is destined for all peoples, all cultures. The Church at her birth was already rich in her plurality and diversity!

### **Responsorial Psalm: Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34**

**R: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. or: R. Alleluia.**

Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD, my God, you are great indeed! How manifold are your works, O LORD! the earth is full of your creatures.

**R: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. or: R. Alleluia.**

If you take away their breath, they perish and return to their dust. When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

**R: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. or: R. Alleluia.**

May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD be glad in his works! Pleasing to him be my theme; I will be glad in the LORD.

**R: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. or: R. Alleluia.**

### **Commentary on Ps 104:**

This is a hymn to God, the Creator. After the introductory invitation (v. 1a) 3 large sections follow: (1) vv. 1b-4: the heavens, (2) vv. 5-24: the land, and (3) vv. 25-26: the sea. These verses recall Gen 1. All these creations are in the hands of God (vv. 27-30). They participate in the creative divinity of God (v. 30). By contemplating on them one discovers the splendor and glory of God (v. 31). V. 34 beholds the beauty and joy of creation that has pleased their Creator.

### **Second Reading: 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13**

L: The second reading is taken from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of

the Spirit is given for some benefit. As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

### **Commentary on 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13**

Paul was facing the problem of division in the Corinthian Christian Community. This was caused by jealousy, envy and discrimination exercised by those in power who had the gifts of leadership against the poor whose ministries they devalued, whose gifts they silenced. Paul stopped this abusive discrimination and arrogance among the elite against the poor by telling them each is gifted with different skills and talents by the same Spirit; with different forms of service but by the same Lord; and with different creative ways of doing but by the same Creator-God. All partake in the gifts that flow from the Holy Trinity! All these gifts are for the community, for the common good. To put all these gifts of the Spirit together, Paul used the imagery of the perfect machine whose different parts work each in its own way for the whole: The Body! Thus, there is no room for social classes in the new community whose task is to work for the Kingdom of God. Jesus has abolished them. The Body so organized means the new community must dismantle the old structures of domination that marginalized the poor, that made them “lay” and therefore “ignorant” of the gifts of the Spirit!

### **Sequence — Veni, Sancte Spiritus**

Come, Holy Spirit, come! And from your celestial home Shed a ray of light divine!  
Come, Father of the poor! Come, source of all our store!  
Come, within our bosoms

shine. You, of comforters the best; You, the soul's most welcome guest; Sweet refreshment here below;

In our labor, rest most sweet; Grateful coolness in the heat; Solace in the midst of woe. O most blessed Light divine, Shine within these hearts of yours, And our inmost being fill! Where you are not, we have naught, Nothing good in deed or thought, Nothing free from taint of ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew; On our dryness pour your dew; Wash the stains of guilt away: Bend the stubborn heart and will; Melt the frozen, warm the chill; Guide the steps that go astray. On the faithful, who adore And confess you, evermore. In your sevenfold gift descend;

Give them virtue's sure reward; Give them your salvation, Lord; Give them joys that never end. Amen. Alleluia.

### **Alleluia Verse:**

**R: Alleluia, alleluia.** Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. **R: Alleluia, alleluia.**

### **Gospel: John 15:26-27; 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: “When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me. And you also testify, because you have been with me from the beginning. “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 John 15:26-27; 16:12-15**

The Spirit, the Defender, is being promised by Jesus and the Father. He will defend and protect the believer from the hatred of the world and its consequent persecution. The Spirit will expose the sins and injustices in the world. His defense and protection is the witness of Jesus. The people will give witness to Jesus because they know him and because the Spirit is in communion with them. This communion of the Spirit and of the Christian community will produce such wisdom and power that will defeat the injustices in the world. This is possible only because the communion among men by the Holy Spirit makes them partakers of the unity in the Trinity.

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**Homily: The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, is Spirit-filled when she respects her plurality and eradicates divisions of social classes through actions of justice.**

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 Spirit-filled when she respects her plurality and eradicates divisions of social classes through actions of justice.	Describe how civil officials and church leaders look down and devalue the talents and efforts of the poor for the building up of the common good. Describe how the poor themselves are responding to this discrimination and arrogance.	This communion of the Spirit and of the Christian community will produce such wisdom and power that will defeat the injustices in the world. The poor are the center of gravity of life.

**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 we respond: Lord, strengthen and move us by your Spirit.

**R: Lord, strengthen and move us by your Spirit.**

L: Let us pray for the Church: that being a Church of the Poor spread all over the world, she may continue to be Spirit-filled by respecting her plurality and diversity and by working for the eradication of

social classes through actions of justice. Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Lord, strengthen and move us by your Spirit.**

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 temptations of ecclesiastical vanities, easy and comfortable lifestyles, anxious pettiness for rules and regulations, and insecure hold on power, they may lead lives of holiness and service by simple living, humility, compassion and may be made "willing to follow Jesus Christ through poverty and oppression in order to carry out the work of salvation." Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Lord, strengthen and move us by your Spirit.**

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 actions on behalf of justice in order to eradicate divisions brought about by social classes. Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Lord, strengthen and move us by your Spirit.**

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 promoting the social teachings of the Church on justice and peace, the dignity of human labor and the right to unionism, to strike and to a just family living wage, on the relativity of the private ownership of property and on caring for the environment and upholding the integrity of creation. Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Lord, strengthen and move us by your Spirit.**

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, strengthen and move us by your Spirit.**

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

**R: Lord, strengthen and move us by your Spirit.**

P: Lord, these are the prayers we present to you today. As we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost and the Birth of the Church, help us to accept the Holy Spirit in our hearts, be moved by his movement, and love the Church in her human weakness and divine perfection. 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: Grant, we pray, O Lord, that, as promised by your Son, the Holy Spirit may reveal to us more abundantly the hidden mystery of this sacrifice and graciously lead us into all truth. 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, bringing your Paschal Mystery to completion, you bestowed the Holy Spirit today on those you made your adopted children by uniting them to your Only Begotten Son. This same Spirit, as the Church came to birth, opened to all peoples the knowledge of God and brought together the many languages of the earth in profession of the one faith.

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.

**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 Acts 2:4,11**

***They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.***

### **Prayer after Communion**

P: Let us pray: O God, who bestow heavenly gifts upon your Church, safeguard, we pray, the grace you have given, that the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out upon her may retain all its force and that this spiritual food may gain her abundance of eternal redemption. 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, the Father of lights, who was pleased to enlighten the disciples' minds by the outpouring of the Spirit, the Paraclete, grant you gladness by his blessing and make you always bound with the gifts of the same Spirit.

C: *Amen.*

P: May the wondrous flame that appeared above the disciples, powerfully cleanse your hearts from every evil and pervade them with its purifying light.

C: *Amen.*

P: And may God, who has been pleased to unite many tongues in the profession of one faith, give you perseverance in that same faith and, by believing, may you journey from hope to clear vision.

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, alleluia, alleluia.

C: *Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.* ■

**J**oin 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](http://gospelbreak.wordpress.com). Or scan this QR code with your Smartphone or tablet.



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