



**Eleventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time
June 14, 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, serves God's Kingdom when the poor, the marginalized, the little ones have become her evangelizers.

The Church of the Poor or a Poor Church for the Poor.

Pope John XXIII first articulated the theme of the Church of the Poor in his radio message of September 11, 1962, a month before the opening of Vatican II. "Confronted with the underdeveloped countries, the church presents itself as it is and wishes to be, as the church of all, and particularly as the Church of the Poor." Pope Francis himself said: (The Joy of the Gospel, 198). "For the Church, the option for the poor is primarily a theological category rather than a cultural, sociological,

political or philosophical one. God shows the poor "his first mercy". This divine preference has consequences for the faith life of all Christians, since we are called to have "this mind... which was in Jesus Christ" (Phil 2:5). Inspired by this, the Church has made an option for the poor which is understood as a "special form of primacy in the exercise of Christian charity, to which the whole tradition of the Church bears witness". This option – as Benedict XVI has taught – "is implicit in our Christian faith in a God who became poor for us, so as to enrich us with his poverty". This is why I want a Church which is poor and for the poor. They have much to teach us. Not only do they share in the *sensus fidei*, but in their difficulties they know the suffering Christ. We need to let ourselves be evangelized by them."

When did you first hear of the "Church of the Poor"? What was your reaction when you heard about it? What is your understanding of the "Church of the Poor"? Why is Pope Francis talking about a Poor Church for the Poor? Do you think it is important to study and reflect about it? Why? ■

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ps 27 (26): 7, 9

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Savior!

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: in celebrating the Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Church is inviting us to live with Jesus, to discover and love him more, in the daily events of his ordinary life. He spoke of the kingdom as the insignificant small seeds sown into the soil, but which of their own accord, have a dynamism to grow and to bear much fruit for the harvest and saving so many by their shades. In this mass, let us pray for ourselves, that in the ordinariness of our lives, we may discover Jesus among the poor farmers and workers who feed and clothe us by their labor, whose struggle for true justice and lasting peace will save and benefit us all.

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, strength of those who hope in you, graciously hear our pleas, and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing, grant us always the help of your grace, that in following your commands we may please you by our resolve and our deeds. 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: Ezek 17:22-24

L: A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel

Thus says the Lord GOD: I, too, will take from the crest of the cedar, from its topmost branches tear off a tender shoot, and plant it on a high and lofty mountain;

on the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it. It shall put forth branches and bear fruit, and become a majestic cedar. Birds of every kind shall dwell beneath it, every winged thing in the shade of its boughs. And all the trees of the field shall know that I, the LORD, bring low the high tree, lift high the lowly tree, wither up the green tree, and make the withered tree bloom. As I, the LORD, have spoken, so will I do.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Commentary on Ezek 17:22-24:

This is an oracle constructed as an allegory which the author used to present a new promise of the restoration of Israel. Each detail of the story corresponded to certain events going on at that time which the hearers were able to detect. This new promise of the restoration of Israel is here depicted as the era of the messiah.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16

R Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praise to your name, Most High, To proclaim your kindness at dawn and your faithfulness throughout the night.

R Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

The just one shall flourish like the palm tree, like a cedar of Lebanon shall he grow. They that are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.

R: Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

They shall bear fruit even in old age; vigorous and sturdy shall they be, Declaring how just is the LORD, my rock, in whom there is no wrong.

R: Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

Commentary on Ps 92:

The opening verse opens with both gratitude and praise to God for his acts

of kindness and faithfulness that are experienced throughout the day. The just will flourish sturdily, proclaiming the faithfulness of God in whom there is no falsity.

Second Reading: 2 Cor 5:6-10

L: A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: We are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Commentary on 2 Cor 5:6-10

Paul goes back to the theme “home on earth” which we experience, and our “permanent home” which we hope. “At home in the body” is an image of mortality from the Old Testament home, “the tents” as dwelling places of the people Israel. This is in contrast to “go(ing) home to the Lord” which God has built, alluding to the life of the resurrection. In the tug-and-pull of this mortal body and going away from it to the permanent home, Paul courageously opts to live in Christ, our decisive point of departure and destination. He will reward all we that we did while we were yet in our mortal body accordingly.

Alleluia Verse:

R: Alleluia, alleluia. The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower. All who come to him will live forever. **R: Alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel: Mk 4:26-34

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.*

Jesus said to the crowds: “This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and through it all the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how. Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come.”

He said, “To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it? It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade.” With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it. Without parables he did not speak to them, but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Commentary on Mk 4:26-34

These are two parables that point to the reality of the Kingdom of God. They illustrate the autonomous life of the kingdom, like seeds that independently grow by themselves once planted by the farmer. In both cases, the seeds start very small, but in the end they produce much harvest that feed and much shades that save so many! The poor, the marginalized, the little ones are the bearers of our own salvation in Christ in our time!

Homily: The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, serves God’s Kingdom when the poor, the marginalized, the little ones have become her evangelizers.

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, serves God’s Kingdom when the poor, the marginalized, the little ones have become her evangelizers.	Why are the peasants/ farmers who toil the land, in the midst of so much richness and food, hungry and poor? Why are the workers who labor to death in factories and work-places poor and unable to buy the fruit of their labor?	“Not only do the poor share in the sensus fidei, but in their difficulties they know the suffering Christ. We need to let ourselves be evangelized by them.” They are our saviors in Christ.

Profession of Faith:

General Intercessions

P: Dear sisters and brothers, on this Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, let us humbly and confidently raise our voices in prayer to our heavenly Father. For every prayer let our response be: Lord, evangelize and save us by your poor and little ones.

R: Lord, evangelize and save us by your poor and little ones.

L: Let us pray for the Church: that being a Church of the Poor spread all over the world, she may continue to serve God’s Kingdom by listening and learning from the poor, the marginalized, the little ones as her evangelizers. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, evangelize and save us by your poor and little ones.

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 will continue to build basic ecclesial communities rooted in the option for the poor which is understood as a “special form of primacy in the exercise of Christian charity, to which the whole tradition of the Church bears witness”. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, evangelize and save us by your poor and little ones.

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 are based on and in response to the cry of the poor and the groaning of creation. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, evangelize and save us by your poor and little ones.

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 listening and learning from the poor, the marginalized and the little ones, and by recognizing and submitting to their leadership in their struggle for justice and peace for all creation. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, evangelize and save us by your poor and little ones.

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, evangelize and save us by your poor and little ones.

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

R: Lord, evangelize and save us by your poor and little ones.

P: Lord, these are the prayers we present to you today. In this ordinary time, teach to be humble, lead us to the poor, the

marginalized and the little ones, to find Jesus in their lives and struggles, and to be in solidarity with them in their aspirations and joyful hope for the gradual realization of the gift of God’s Kingdom. We ask this through 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: O God, who in the offerings presented here provide for the twofold needs of human nature, nourishing us with food and renewing us with your Sacrament, grant, we pray, that the sustenance they provide may not fail us in body or in spirit. Through Christ our Lord. 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.

5 For by his birth he brought renewal

to humanity's fallen state, and by his suffering, cancelled out our sins; by his rising from the dead he has opened the way to eternal life, and by ascending to you, O Father, he has unlocked the gates of heaven.

And so, with the company of Angels and Saints, we sing the hymn of your praise, 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.

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 Ps 27 (26):4

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray: As this reception of your Holy Communion, O Lord, foreshadows the union of the faithful in you, so may it bring about unity in your Church. 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 Lord bless you and keep you.

C: Amen.

P: May he let his face shine upon you and show you his mercy.

C: Amen.

P: May he turn his countenance towards you and give you his peace.

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, glorifying the Lord by your life.

C: Thanks be to God. ■

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.

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