



Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles
– St. Peter the Apostle Sunday
June 29, 2014

Introductory Rites

Greeting

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 fellowship with the Holy Spirit, be always with you.

C: *And with your spirit.*

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, can live out the heritage of martyrdom of her founder by following her first pillars: Peter, the Rock, with the fragility of his innocent faith and Paul, the faith's bold innovator through inter-cultural dialog.

“This Sunday is called St. Peter the Apostle Sunday for the formation, training and support of seminarians, clergy and religious all over the world. All collections at all masses and the evening before should be forwarded to the Most Reverend Ordinaries within 15 days. The remittance will be forwarded to Rome to be distributed for such purpose.” (Ordo, 2014). In the spirit of solidarity with other churches, let us reflect on what the PCP-II says:

8. Through the Paschal Mystery

(55) Our deliverance required Jesus to resist evil. He clashed with the religious powers of Israel. Though guiltless, he was crucified as a criminal and died, a victim of injustice. But his death was less

a taking away of his life as a free offering of it for our redemption. And this free oblation of self he anticipated the night before he died. He gathered his disciples at supper and handed himself over to them in the form of bread and wine, commanding them to do the same in his memory. This is the Eucharist – a sacrament of his life, offered to God and given to human beings, so that his disciples might learn to live and die as he did. And his rising from the dead vindicated his kind of living and dying in the love of his Father, in the service of all. This kind of life, and only this, of a ‘person fully alive is God’s glory.’

(56) The final prayer of Jesus – his act of self-oblation on the Cross to the Father for others – would be indelibly imprinted in the minds and hearts of the Apostles. His dying and rising – his paschal mystery – was to be a ‘dangerous memory’ challenging them, strengthening them, providing a painful realism to the proclaiming of the Good News. For this cup of suffering that Jesus had to drink was a non-negotiable element of the mission to liberate. We, too, will have to drink our share of that cup.” ■

Introduction and Welcome

P: Dear brothers and sisters: let us celebrate with joy this Solemnity of the Apostles Sts. Peter and Paul. As we do, let us be inspired by Peter's solid faith that can be funny and embarrassing in its confident innocence; and by Paul and his boldness, if not sometimes misplaced and exaggerated way of cultural dialogue and adaptation, to proclaim the Gospel to the nations.

Penitential Act

P: Brothers and sisters, let us now acknowledge our sins against God, against one another and against all of creation, for our God is a God of love and compassion.

P: Lord Jesus, you have called us to believe in you. Lord, have mercy.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Christ Jesus, you have called us to hope in you, Christ, have mercy.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: Lord Jesus, you have called us to love you, to love one another and to take care all of God's creation. 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: O God, who on the Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul give us the noble and holy joy of this day, grant, we pray, that your Church may in all things follow the teaching of those through whom she received the beginnings of right religion. Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who live and reign with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Acts 12:1-11

L: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In those days, King Herod laid hands upon some members of the Church to harm them. He had James, the brother of John, killed by the sword, and when he saw that this was pleasing to the Jews he proceeded to arrest Peter also. —It was the feast of Unleavened Bread.— He had him taken into custody and put in prison under the guard of four squads of four soldiers each. He intended to bring him before the people after Passover.

Peter thus was being kept in prison, but prayer by the Church was fervently being made to God on his behalf. On the very night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter, secured by double chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while outside the door guards kept watch on the prison. Suddenly the angel of the Lord stood by him and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and awakened him, saying,

“Get up quickly.” The chains fell from his wrists. The angel said to him, “Put on your belt and your sandals.” He did so. Then he said to him, “Put on your cloak and follow me.”

So he followed him out, not realizing that what was happening through the angel was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed the first guard, then the second, and came to the iron gate leading out to the city, which opened for them by itself. They emerged and made their way down an alley, and suddenly the angel left him.

Then Peter recovered his senses and said, “Now I know for certain that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people had been expecting.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Commentary on Acts 12:1-11:

While the text opens with the martyrdom of James, the brother of John – the first martyr among the apostles – the focus is on Peter’s incarceration, subsequent liberation and mission.

The event of his imprisonment is couched in a language reminiscent of Jesus’ death and resurrection: feast of the Unleavened Bread, tight and full security guards, light shining. There is also an interplay between the human action and the marvelous intervention of apparitions and signs. The link between the imprisonment of Peter and his possible execution on the one hand, and his liberation to do the mission, on the other, was the prayer of the Church community. By this prayer Peter was freed, through an intervention from heaven and the suspension of human action. With his escape from prison, Peter was freed from Herod and from

the Jewish expectation. Peter would now fade away in the Acts; Paul and his mission to the Gentiles will now take over the story.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

R. (5) *The angel of the Lord will rescue those who fear him.*

I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall be ever in my mouth. Let my soul glory in the LORD; the lowly will hear me and be glad.

R. *The angel of the Lord will rescue those who fear him.*

Glorify the LORD with me, let us together extol his name. I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

R. *The angel of the Lord will rescue those who fear him.*

Look to him that you may be radiant with joy, and your faces may not blush with shame. When the poor one called out, the LORD heard, and from all his distress he saved him.

R. *The angel of the Lord will rescue those who fear him.*

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. Taste and see how good the LORD is; blessed the man who takes refuge in him.

R. *The angel of the Lord will rescue those who fear him.*

Commentary on Ps 34:

This is an acrostic psalm or an alphabet psalm. It opens up with an incessant and constant act of blessing and thanksgiving to God. The psalmist identifies himself/herself with the lowly and the poor who fear and love God and are open to his saving deed. The psalmist attributes his/her deliverance to the help of an angel: God rescues the poor and the lowly through his angels.

Second Reading: 2Tim 4:6-8, 17-18

L: A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy.

I, Paul, am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance. The Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the proclamation might be completed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat and will bring me safe to his heavenly Kingdom. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Commentary on 2Tim 4:6-8, 17-18:

This is Paul's final greetings. He pictures himself as having reached the final stage of his life, an imminent departure. His description of himself as servant of the word takes on a sacrificial and liturgical tone: he is like a libation being poured. Then, another picture of himself - an athlete for the proclamation of the word - provokes a celebratory victory: the crown of righteousness. But not only for him, but for those who partake in the race. It has been the Lord who rescued him, the solitary prisoner abandoned by his partners to the hostilities that surrounded him. It has been the Lord who gave success to his mission to preach the word to the Gentiles.

Alleluia Verse:

R: Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not

prevail against it!

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: Matt 16:13-19

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And with your spirit.*

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

C: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Commentary on Matt 16:13-19

After the signs and wonders Jesus did before those who followed him, now he must set his direction more decisively towards the city of Jerusalem. This text could serve as a conclusion to what he has so far done and at the same time mark a new beginning for the other half of his ministry, but still in continuation with the former days.

At Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples

who have been intimately with him if they finally got it: do they know who Jesus was and what he was doing. With Peter's confession on the identity of Jesus, Jesus knew that the foundation of the Church should be left on Peter's shoulders. In turn, the Church under Peter and the disciples has been entrusted with the task of forgiving/not forgiving sins.

Jesus is the Messiah and Savior of the world. He has entrusted his legacy, the Church, upon Peter. The Church partakes in the heritage of its Founder, Jesus who now relies on the humanity and materiality of Peter to help people grow in faith and be with God, their ultimate realization of their dreams!

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Homily: The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, can live out the heritage of martyrdom of her founder by following her first pillars: Peter, the Rock, with the fragility of his innocent faith and Paul, the faith's bold innovator through inter-cultural dialog.

Summary of the Sunday Reading Message	Concrete description of the poor people and their situation	Reflection/ Points for reflection/ Call/ Challenge
Homily: The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, can live out the heritage of martyrdom of her founder by following her first pillars: Peter, the Rock, with the fragility of his innocent faith and Paul, the faith's bold innovator through inter-cultural dialog.	Describe the varied lifestyles of the different classes and groups in your BEC. Are their expressions of the faith in Jesus Christ also different and varied? Where do they meet and unite?	In what way have they lived out the heritage of Christ's martyrdom and followed the fragile and innocent faith of Peter and Paul's innovative faith through inter-cultural dialog?

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 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 P: Dear sisters and brothers, let us now joyfully and humbly ask our Father to grant us the grace to live up to our heritage of martyrdom for the sake of the faith in Jesus. For every prayer let our response be: Lord, make us daring in our witness of the faith.

R: Lord, make us daring in our witness of the faith.

L: Let us pray for the Church: that being a Church of the Poor spread all over the world, she may continue to give witness to the faith in Christ Jesus by nourishing the faith of those who believe by love and community belongingness, re-proposing the Gospel to those who have left the faith

by good examples in word and deed, and by proclaiming the Gospel to those who have not yet heard, with courage and integrity. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, make us daring in our witness of the faith.

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 their courageous examples, they may continue to form seminarians, clergy and religious who would propose radical and maximalist alternative to a world of corruption, the idolatry of money, the power of the market, the dehumanizing prejudice and discrimination and the violence of injustice and war, with the values of God's Kingdom. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, make us daring in our witness of the faith.

L: For world leaders and all those entrusted with governance and administration of the goods of the earth: that they may respect international laws, treaties and agreements that promote the common good, liberate the poor, welcome the foreigner and arbitrate disputes on human rights, national boundaries and the sharing of the earth's resources. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, make us daring in our witness of the faith.

L: For all of us, inhabitants of the earth and citizens of heaven: that we may help each other cultivate a sense of solidarity with one another, develop direct people-to-people relationships and direct our leaders, both national and international, to a common stewardship of the universe and towards a common human destiny. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, make us daring in our witness of the faith.

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, make us daring in our witness of the faith.

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

R: Lord, make us daring in our witness of the faith.

P: Lord God, these are the prayers we present to you today. We thank you for gifting us with the heritage of faith and martyrdom after the examples of Sts. Peter and Paul. We ask you to mold and strengthen us to stand for our faith in Jesus. We ask this through same 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: May the prayer of the Apostles, O Lord, accompany the sacrificial gift that we present to your name for consecration, and may their intercession make us devoted to you in celebration of this sacrifice. 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 by your providence the blessed Apostles Peter and Paul bring us joy: Peter, foremost in confessing the faith, Paul, its outstanding preacher, Peter, who established the early Church from the remnant of Israel, Paul, master and teacher of the Gentiles that you call.

And so, each in a different way gathered together the one family of Christ; and revered together throughout the world, they share one Martyr's crown.

And therefore, with all the Angels and Saints, we praise you, 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.

Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray: Grant us, O Lord, who have been renewed by this Sacrament, so to live in the Church, that, persevering in the breaking of the Bread and in the teaching of

the Apostles, we may be one heart and one soul, made steadfast in your love. Through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Final Blessing

P: Bow down for the blessing: May almighty God bless you, he has made you steadfast in Saint Peter's saving confession and through it has set you on the solid rock of the Church's faith.

C: Amen.

P: And having instructed you by the tireless preaching of St. Paul, may God teach you constantly by his example to win brothers and sisters for Christ.

C: Amen.

P: So that by the keys of St. Peter and the words of St. Paul, and by the support of their intercession, God may bring us happily to that homeland that Peter attained on a cross and Paul by the blade of a sword.

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. ■