



Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 19, 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 the Body of Christ that shepherds all people without discrimination and prejudice but with justice.

Today we celebrate the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Our theme for this Sunday is: The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, is the Body of Christ that shepherds all people without discrimination and prejudice but with justice. With this theme, let us continue to reflect on the Church as Discipleship in Community, this time contemplating on Mary as Model of Discipleship. Let us reflect with PCP-II when it says:

“D. Mary, Model of Discipleship

2. Mary, the First Evangelizer

(149) Mary was not only the first to be evangelized, to receive the

Good News, she was also the first evangelizer. She was poor in fact and in spirit. After the Annunciation she carried Jesus in her heart and in her womb. ‘As quickly as she could’ she brought Jesus, the Good News, to her cousin Elizabeth. Thus, she brought joy not only to her but to the child in Elizabeth’s womb as well, who leapt for joy. And while she accepted the word of God from her relative who was filled with the Holy Spirit, she also proclaimed the word of God to her by her Magnificat. She not only spoke of the great things the Lord had done for her. She also spoke of God’s ‘policy’ to pull down the mighty from their thrones and to raise the lowly. And how can we doubt that she shared with the nascent Church those things about her Son which she had treasured and pondered in her heart?

(150) She was always a giver of Jesus to people. She gave him birth and presented him to the shepherds and the Magi. She gave him also to the old man Simeon who received him joyfully in his arms.”

In your own words, how is Mary, the mother of Jesus, also the first evangelizer, or preacher of the Good News? Read and pray the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55). ■

Introductory Rites

Entrance Antiphon:(Ps 54 (53): 6, 8)

See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

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 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, 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. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen and accompany us to practice this vocation through a life of love, simplicity and solidarity with the poor and the marginalized. Today in a special way let us seek the grace of God to be, like Jesus, men and women who, moved at the sight of people who are like sheep without a shepherd, dare to proclaim the alternative of God's kingdom.

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: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

C: For we have sinned against you.

P: Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

C: And grant us your salvation.

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: Show favor, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands. 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: Jer 23:1-6

L: A reading from the Prophet Jeremias

Woe to the shepherds who mislead and scatter the flock of my pasture, says the LORD. Therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, against the shepherds who shepherd my

people: You have scattered my sheep and driven them away. You have not cared for them, but I will take care to punish your evil deeds. I myself will gather the remnant of my flock from all the lands to which I have driven them and bring them back to their meadow; there they shall increase and multiply. I will appoint shepherds for them who will shepherd them so that they need no longer fear and tremble; and none shall be missing, says the LORD. Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up a righteous shoot to David; as king he shall reign and govern wisely, he shall do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah shall be saved, Israel shall dwell in security. This is the name they give him: "The LORD our justice."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Commentary on Am Jer 23:1-6:

These words directed at the leaders and shepherds of the people of Israel come after Jeremiah's words concerning the kings of Judah (Jer 22) and before the series of accusations against the false prophets (Jer 23:9-ff.). The leaders and shepherds of Israel are denounced for not doing their mission: instead of gathering the people, they scatter them. But on the same breath, the prophet proclaims that the dispersion is also Yahweh's punishment for them, because they, the flock, are, to a certain extent, responsible for the sinfulness of the whole nation. God is the only true shepherd of Israel. The task of his appointed shepherd of the people is to administer the justice of Yahweh because that is his name: Yahweh is our justice!

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6

R: *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul.

R: *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

He guides me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side with your rod and your staff that give me courage.

R: *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

R: *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come.

R: *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

Commentary on Psalm 23:

The qualities of the Lord as shepherd are: (1) guide to where food is plentiful, to the right path when the sands of the desert have covered the known routes, (2) protector of the flock and (3) host of a banquet before the enemy. Goodness and kindness are the personifications of the qualities of God, giving his security and safety in life.

Second Reading: Eph 2:13-18

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

Brothers and sisters: In Christ Jesus you who once were far off have become near by the blood of Christ.

For he is our peace, he who made both one and broke down the dividing wall of enmity, through his flesh, abolishing the law with its commandments and legal claims, that he might create in himself one new person in place of the two, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile both with God, in one body, through the cross, putting that enmity to death by it. He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Commentary on Eph 2:13-18

This text is referred to as the Charter of Unity, Reconciliation and Peace. Christ, and the Christian, stands in between two discriminating prejudices: (1) the Jews who call themselves the elect, the heirs of the kingdom, the in-crowd; and the (2) pagans, who are excluded, called the outsiders, the enemy, without God, the distant peoples. But Christ has destroyed these barriers of separation exemplified by the law and the rituals, through the sacrifice of his own body: on the cross, he has opened his body for all to enter. God now is accessible to all through the Body of Christ, given as the sole free gift of unity, reconciliation and peace. The Spirit has made this possible.

Alleluia Verse: Cf. John 10:27

R: Alleluia, alleluia. My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel: Mk 6:30-34

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.*

The apostles gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught. He said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.” People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat. So they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place. People saw them leaving and many came to know about it. They hastened there on foot from all the towns and arrived at the place before them. When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Commentary on Mk 6:30-34

This is the first and only time the word “apostle/s” appear in Mark. It means: the one sent. After every mission, it is important to rest and take stock of everything that happened, including the need to regain strength and spirit by being with Jesus. That is why it is imported to be away from the crowd, and just be with Jesus. But the people may insist that the mission must continue. When Jesus sees the crowd, he is moved with pity. The Greek word for “moved with pity” is used to describe what happens in the belly when one is about to puke, or in the belly of the volcano when it is about to erupt. The popular translation is: compassion-mercy; but it could be a mixture of anger, sadness, pain, fire and power. Jesus feels this because he sees the crowd like sheep without a shepherd: because their leaders have betrayed the people by injustice, impoverishment, neglect and abandonment. That is why he has to teach them the alternative of the Kingdom of God!

Homily: The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, is the Body of Christ that shepherds all people without discrimination and prejudice but with 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 the Body of Christ that shepherds all people without discrimination and prejudice but with justice.	Who, in your BEC and parish community, are considered excluded? Why? Who are in or are included? Why? What are the indicators of discrimination, prejudice and injustice in that situation? So, what do you do?	Mary spoke of God's 'policy' to pull down the mighty from their thrones and to raise the lowly. Christ is our Justice, Unity, Reconciliation and Peace. So, we must be moved!

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, on this Sixteenth 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, make us your hearts in the world.

R: Lord, make us your hearts in the world.

L: Let us pray for the Church: that, being a Church of the Poor spread all over the world, she may continue to share the mission of Jesus by shepherding all people without discrimination, prejudice and exclusion but with justice. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, make us your hearts in the world.

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 continue to be moved with compassion, mercy, anger, pity, sadness, joyful resolve and fiery power at the sight of people who are oppressed, neglected, abandoned

and betrayed by their leaders and shepherds and so proclaim the alternative of God's Reign. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, make us your hearts in the world.

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 destroy the walls of division and hatred and instead promote those that build bridges of understanding, solidarity, unity, reconciliation and peace based on justice. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, make us your hearts in the world.

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 trusting the poor in their creative power to change the world into a better place to live in, by encouraging the rich and the well-to-do to share their resources not as an act of philanthropy but as a Christian duty and by all of us joining hearts and hands together to protect the integrity of creation. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, make us your hearts in the world.

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 your hearts in the world.

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

R: Lord, make us your hearts in the world.

P: Lord, these are the prayers we present to you today. In this ordinary time, help us to love you and know you more, by encountering you alive in our lives and in creation, yesterday, today and tomorrow. Mold us to become the gentle but firm hearts of your heart in the world. 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: O God, who in the one perfect sacrifice brought to completion varied offerings of the law, accept, we pray, this sacrifice from your faithful servants and make it holy, as you blessed the gifts of Abel, so that what each has offered to the honor of your majesty may benefit the salvation of all. 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.

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: Cf. Ps 111 (110): 4-5

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.

Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray: Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life. 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 the God of all consolation order your days in his peace and grant you the gifts of his blessing.

C: *Amen.*

P: May he free you always from every distress and confirm your hearts in his love.

C: *Amen.*

P: So that on this life's journey you may be effective in good works, rich in the gifts of hope, faith and charity, and may come happily to eternal life.

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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