



**Twenty-First Sunday in
Ordinary Time
August 17, 2014**

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, fulfills her identity when she promotes the new ethic of solidarity among nations and lovingly takes the side of the poor as Christ commissioned Peter in the Church.

Is the promotion of the ethic of international solidarity among nations an act of living faith in Jesus and in what he stands for? How do we, as Church of the Poor, as Basic Ecclesial Community, lovingly take the side of the poor in the spirit of Christ's commissioning of Peter in the Church?

With PCP-II, let us continue to meditate on the gift of Faith that God has given to us in Jesus. PCP-II says:

“2. Living the Faith

2.a) Praying and Worshipping

(74) Our faith lives and grows through prayer and worship. The whole of Christian life must be worship offered to God. We are to offer our whole selves ‘as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.’

(75) But while all of life must be worship, we need to express our worship in explicit acts. Primary among these acts of worship is personal prayer, after the example of Jesus who spent long hours of prayer communing with His Father. Unless we too pray, we cannot grow in our personal relationship with God. Pope John Paul II reminds us: ‘It should never be forgotten that prayer constitutes an essential part of Christian life, understood in its fullness and centrality.’”

How is your personal prayer life? Do you ever pray alone? Where? At what time? How regular do you pray alone? What forms of prayer do you do, or, how do you pray? What are the intentions you pray for, or for whom or for what do you pray at all? ■

Introductory Rites

Entrance Antiphon:

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *Amen.*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And with your spirit.*

Introduction and Welcome

P: Dear brothers and sisters: Today, we pray for the Church, for all peoples of different faith-traditions and for those who avowedly do not believe in God. That our common humanity and search for the common good may be deepened by our sharing of the experiences of love and by our dialogue on what we truly believe in. We pray especially for peoples who are victims of the violence of division, hatred, exploitation and war in our country, in the Middle East, North America, Central and Latin America and in the countries of Africa and Europe.

Penitential Act

P: Brothers and sisters, let us now acknowledge our sins and ask God's mercy and forgiveness for he is our God of love and compassion.

P: Lord Jesus, you constantly invite us to solidarity with one another, especially the poor and the victims of violence. Lord, have mercy.

C: *Lord, have mercy.*

P: Lord Jesus, you call us in our uniqueness and diversity to be one family in your Kingdom. Christ, have mercy.

C: *Christ, have mercy.*

P: Lord Jesus, you give us shepherds who are one with us in our humanity

and discernment of your will. 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 cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found. 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: Is 22:19-23

L: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the LORD to Shebna, master of the palace: "I will thrust you from

your office and pull you down from your station. On that day I will summon my servant Eliakim, son of Hilkiah; I will clothe him with your robe, and gird him with your sash, and give over to him your authority. He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah. I will place the key of the House of David on Eliakim's shoulder; when he opens, no one shall shut when he shuts, no one shall open. I will fix him like a peg in a sure spot, to be a place of honor for his family."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Commentary on Is 22:19-23:

In an oracle, Isaiah looks unfavorably at the chief of the royal household because he was a foreigner. He talked of the future replacement of the foreign chief of the royal household with a true native Israelite. The national sovereignty of the nation and the integrity of the people with Yahweh as its ultimate king must be preserved as a new ethical and moral principle in international relations. This is in contrast to the history of wars of invasions, unwanted occupations, proxy wars, usurpations of powers and oppression of the people by kings that did not know the alternative ethical and moral standards of Yahwism.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8

R: Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my heart, for you have heard the words of my mouth; in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise; I will worship at your holy temple.

R: Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

I will give thanks to your name, because

of your kindness and your truth: When I called, you answered me; you built up strength within me.

R: Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

The LORD is exalted, yet the lowly he sees, and the proud he knows from afar. Your kindness, O LORD, endures forever; forsake not the work of your hands.

R: Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Commentary on Ps 138:

This is a psalm of thanksgiving. The first 3 verses speak of the personal experience of the psalmist because God heard his/her prayer. The psalmist stands afar from the Temple, among a foreign people, and surrounded by local gods. The motive for the thanksgiving song: God's kindness and truth which strengthened and edified the psalmist. The psalmist is convinced that God in his majesty is on the side of the lowly and he distances himself from the proud. The psalmist identifies himself with the lowly, the poor and entrusts himself/herself and his/her future completely into the hands of God. S/He is confident that God will not forsake the works of his hands, all people who turn to him for help! For the God that s/he believes in is the God of everlasting kindness and love.

Second Reading: Rom 11:33-36

L: The second reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord or who has been his counselor? Or who has given the Lord anything that he may

be repaid? For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Commentary on Rom 11:33-36:

The enigma is profound: Israel will remain hard until all of the gentiles shall find God. And Israel would still be saved even if she rejected God, because her rejection of the Gospel is the salvation of all! And this is the secret: “No one can know the mind and ways of God! He will not forsake his covenant with Israel because he loves them!” Imagine this: God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all! Because all of creation is from him, by him and for him. See how rich and immeasurable the wisdom and prudence of God is. Our human response to this immense mystery ought to be: glorify God forever!

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 16:13-20

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.*

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and 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.” Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Commentary on Matt 16:13-20

Jesus’ real identity is now revealed to his disciples. He is the Messiah Israel has been waiting for; the Son of God who will save the whole of creation. In him, the whole of humanity will become children of God. Peter, to whom this revelation has been given, is set apart from the rest of the disciples. Upon him as rock, Jesus will build his church, the community of God’s people. He exercises this responsibility as executor of the Master’s will without losing the integrity of his well-discerned judgment for the people.

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Homily: The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, fulfills her identity when she promotes the new ethic of solidarity among nations and lovingly takes the side of the poor as Christ commissioned Peter in the Church.

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, fulfills her identity when she promotes the new ethic of solidarity among nations and lovingly takes the side of the poor as Christ commissioned Peter in the Church.	Study and reflect on the situations of conflict in yourself, in your family, in your community, in the nation and in the different parts of the world. What is the role of the leaderships in our BEC and Church in this situations?	Choose a quotation from the letters and homilies of Pope Francis that addresses this situations of conflict. Reflect on what he said. Reflect on what he is doing to realize what he said.

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, in the spirit of the poor of God who, in one's need, joyfully opens one's self to the loving intervention of God, let us now present to the Father our petitions. For every prayer let our response be: Lord, we trust in you, hear our prayer.

R: Lord, we trust in you, hear our prayer.

L: Let us pray for the Church: that being a Church of the Poor spread all over the world, she may continue to lead in prayer and example the call for all peoples and nations to greater understanding, mutual trust and solidarity for the sake of international justice and peace. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, we trust in you, hear our prayer.

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, inspired by the Spirit, they may continue to live out their effective missionary presence in

situations of conflicts in individuals torn in themselves, in interpersonal relationships broken by misunderstandings, in social and international relationships divided by selfish national, religious and class interests. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, we trust in you, hear our prayer.

L: For world leaders and all those entrusted with governance and administration of the goods of the earth: that they may continue to seek the common good, reform unjust laws and structures that are divisive and oppressive to the poor and the disadvantaged. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, we trust in you, hear our prayer..

L: For all of us, inhabitants of the earth and citizens of heaven: that we may inspire one another to listen to the Word of God, share our experiences of liberation from human need and excesses, and together build possibilities for a new life of prosperity and peace. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, we trust in you, hear our prayer.

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, we trust in you, hear our prayer.

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

R: Lord, we trust in you, hear our prayer.

P: Lord our God, we joyfully entrust to you all that we are, all that we have, all our dreams and aspirations. Grant them to us according to your will. 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: O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by adoption through the one sacrifice offered once for all, bestow graciously on us, we pray, the gifts of unity and peace in your Church. 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, canceled 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:

*With the Lord there is mercy; in him
is plentiful redemption.*

Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray: Complete within us,
O Lord, we pray, the healing work of
your mercy and graciously perfect and
sustain us, so that in all things we may
please you. 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
your faithful people, O Lord, we pray,
always respond to the promptings of
your love and, moved by wholesome
compunction, may they do gladly
what you command, so as to receive
the things you promise. Through
Christ our Lord.

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, glorifying the Lord by
your life.*

C: Thanks be to God. ■

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