



Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 3, 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, cannot be separated from Christ when her celebration of the Eucharist, her love that does justice and her solidarity with the poor in their project for a better life are intrinsically linked as one!

Today is also St. John Baptiste Marie Vianney Sunday. Let us especially pray for the clergy, and their seminary and continuing formation. We pray that they may be formed and imbued with the sentiments of the human heart of Jesus: compassionate, humble and committed to the works of the Kingdom of God. Let us pray for them in the light of Jesus' call to faith. As PCP-II says:

“The Call of Jesus Today

1.b) A Missionary and Maturing Faith

(67) Faith fires a person with the

passion of Jesus for the salvation of all. ‘The love of Christ impels us,’ says St. Paul. It impels us to mission, to evangelize. Paul reminds himself elsewhere, ‘Woe to me if I do not preach (the gospel).’ To accept the mission and evangelize others is the test of authentic belief: ‘The person who has been evangelized goes on to evangelize others. It is unthinkable that a person should believe the Word and submit himself to the Kingdom without becoming a person who bears witness to it and proclaims it in his turn.’

(68) Faith is a gift of God. No one can come to Jesus unless the Father draws him. Without Jesus we can do nothing. And no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the power of the Holy Spirit. But this gift of faith is a dynamic reality. It needs to grow. It is a life, and like all life, it cannot remain static. The believer must strive to know Jesus more, to know more about Jesus, and to announce Jesus to more and more people. The gift of faith must mature into a dynamic, living, and life-giving faith. ■

Introductory Rites

Entrance Antiphon:

O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

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: Welcome to this celebration of God's love and life which he so graciously shares with all of us and with all of creation. With great joy let us thank God for the gift of vocation to the priesthood and the generosity of the clergy and the seminarians to respond to his call! May the priesthood of St. John Vianney be their spiritual and pastoral example as they serve the people of God.

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 call us to believe in you. Forgive our unbelief. Lord, have mercy.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Lord Jesus, you call us to follow you. Forgive our hardness of heart. Christ, have mercy.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: Lord Jesus, you call us to serve your people. Forgive our selfishness. 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: Draw near to your servants, O Lord, and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness, that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide, you may restore what you have created and keep safe what you have restored. 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 55:1-3

L: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the LORD: All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk! Why spend your money for what is not bread; your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare. Come to me heedfully, listen,

that you may have life. I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Commentary on Is 55:1-3:

The restoration of Israel also promises a renewed covenant. This will be a new way of living characterized by just and equal sharing and participation of the people in the gifts of creation. Spread before the people are the goods of the earth: they have all the opportunities to develop and share them, in justice and equality. The allusion to David recalls the promise of Yahweh to David and to the Davidic dynasty. In this text, however, the benefits assured to David are not confined to one family alone, but to all the people, to all the nations that accepts the example of the restored Israel.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18

R: The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness. The LORD is good to all and compassionate toward all his works.

R: The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

The eyes of all look hopefully to you, and you give them their food in due season; you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

R: The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

The LORD is just in all his ways and holy in all his works. The LORD is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth.

R: The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

Commentary on Ps 145:

This is the last acrostic poem of the Book of Psalms. The psalmist works on repetition and reiteration as his poetic tools for conveying his message. The poetic intensity rises as the subject passes from the personal to the succeeding generations to those who love God and finally, to all the living. The time sequence also affirms this movement of intensification of praise: every day until forever! The object of praise is God and all his works: God is faithful, slow to anger and abundant in kindness; his mighty works that build the kingdom lift up the poor and the lowly. He is close to those who call upon him in truth.

Second Reading: Rom 8:35, 37-39

L: A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters: What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Commentary on Rom 8:35, 37-39:

This triumphant hymn dedicated to God's love takes on a higher level of intensity. God has truly taken the side of humanity and all of creation. He has taken that saving side by sending his Son and through the gift of the

Holy Spirit. Paul classifies the possible obstacles to this terrific love of God for us. There are obstacles that pertain to hardships in life and the possibility of death, like anguish, or distress, persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword. But the other list contains more universal and profound dimensions: death, nor life, nor depth, nor angels, nor principalities and others that can be reckoned with time and space and power. God's love for us is so powerful, we normally cling to it every day until forever!

Alleluia Verse:

R: Alleluia, alleluia! One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God!

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: Matt14:13-21

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 heard of the death of John the Baptist, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. The crowds heard of this and followed him on foot from their towns. When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples approached him and said, "This is a deserted place and it is already late; dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves." But they said to him, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have here." Then he said, "Bring them here to me," and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass.

Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over—twelve wicker baskets full. Those who ate were about five thousand men, not counting women and children.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Commentary on Matt14:13-21

One generation passes and a new generation is born to take its place, this time more definitive than ever with regard to its role in the building of the Kingdom of God. Jesus took that decisive one-step backward in prayer and reflection to strengthen his inner conviction to definitively activate the operations of the Reign of God into high gear. That conviction was tested in prayer as well as in action, when upon coming down from solitude, he was confronted by the danger of being caught by the authorities, on the one hand, and of doing justice to the poor and the needy, on the other. He took them both. He demonstrated that the celebration of the Eucharist, the act of self-giving and doing justice here and now are inseparable. By celebrating the Eucharist, by a profound love that does justice and by solidarity in the struggle to better human life here on earth, Jesus and his disciples and the Christian Community that would follow, will witness and experience the abundance of God's love, the grace of the people's creative productivity, the temporary victories of human liberation now and the fullness of salvation in the Kingdom of God.

Homily: The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, cannot be separated from Christ when her celebration of the Eucharist, her love that does justice and her solidarity with the poor in their project for a better life are intrinsically linked as one!

Summary of the Sunday Reading Message	Concrete description of the poor people and their situation	Reflection/ Points for reflection/ Call/ Challenge
<p>The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, cannot be separated from Christ when her celebration of the Eucharist, her love that does justice and her solidarity with the poor in their project for a better life are intrinsically linked as one!</p>	<p>Name some acts of love that does justice that you and your BEC do in your parish, among your people. Name concrete programs and ministries in your BEC and parish that are expressions of your solidarity with the poor in the quest for a better life. Do you celebrate these acts of love and solidarity in the Eucharist?</p>	<p>“This is the Eucharist – a sacrament of his (Jesus’) life, offered to God and given to human beings, so that his disciples might learn to live and die as he did.” (PCP-II, 55).</p>

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, today we elevate once more our minds and hearts, our whole selves to God, and ask him to grant us the blessings we need. For every prayer let our response be: Lord, draw us closer to you and to one another.

R: Lord, draw us closer to you and to one another.

L: Let us pray for the Church: that being a Church of the Poor spread all over the world, she may never be separated from Christ because her worship in the Eucharist, her love that does justice and her solidarity with the poor in their project for a better life are intrinsically linked as one. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, draw us closer to you and to one another.

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 be formed according to the sentiments of the heart of Jesus: loving, just and compassionate, and that they may be pastoral ministers of justice and peace and the protection of the integrity of creation. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: *Lord, draw us closer to you and to one another.*

L: For world leaders and all those entrusted with governance and administration of the goods of the earth: that they may unite to prepare and promote peace rather than war, that they may serve the cause of justice and love, rather than injustice, violence and hate. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: *Lord, draw us closer to you and to one another.*

L: For all of us, inhabitants of the earth and citizens of heaven: that we may inspire each other to get involved in the affairs of the world, to stand for what is right and just, loving and merciful, and together work for its transformation according to the gospel values. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: *Lord, draw us closer to you and to one another.*

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, draw us closer to you and to one another.*

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

R: *Lord, draw us closer to you and to one another.*

P: Lord God, these are the prayers we present to you today. We ask you to grant them to us by making us sensitive to all the cries of the human heart, especially that of the poor, and of all of creation, and by making us instruments of your love and compassion, mercy and justice, peace and the care for all of creation. 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: Graciously sanctify these gifts, O Lord, we pray, and, accepting the oblation of this spiritual sacrifice, make of us an eternal offering to you. 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 out of compassion for the waywardness that is ours, he humbled himself and was born of the Virgin; by the passion of the Cross, he freed us from unending death, and by rising from the dead, he gave us eternal life.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, 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.

Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

(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:

You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray: Accompany with constant protection, O Lord, those you renew with these heavenly gifts and, in your never-failing care for them, make them worthy 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: Direct your people, O Lord, we pray, with heavenly instruction, that by avoiding every evil and pursuing all that is good, they may earn not your anger but your unending mercy. 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 and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

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. Visit
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