



**Twenty-Fourth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
September 14, 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, shares in the exaltation of the Cross through the Cross of the Incarnation, Solidarity and Struggle!**

After the exposition on Faith as our response to the call of Jesus today, PCP-II presents now another response to that call: Overcoming the Reality of Sin. PCP-II says:

### **“3. Overcoming the Reality of Sin**

#### **a) Personal Sin**

**(81)** Our faith response to the call of Jesus brings us into the struggle with sinfulness. Even a person of faith experiences failures. Faith works through love. But often we fail to love. Selfishness overcomes us in a mysterious way. We fail to do the good we know we should do,

and fail to avoid the evil we know we should not do. We sometimes decisively break off (by mortal sin) our relationship with God our Father, with Jesus our Savior, and the Holy Spirit our friend or at least diminish (by venial sin) the intensity of this relationship. Our love for God which must be first, the supreme love, can grow cold and we can fall away from this first love. Hence, the need to pray daily “Forgive us our sins,” and to seek reconciliation with God and with the Church in the Sacrament of Penance.

Personal sins are easily detected. The 10 Commandments can be our easy guide. But is the distinction between mortal sins and venial sins still meaningful to you? What would be mortal sins and venial sins? Why? Give examples from concrete experiences, either in your personal life or from your BEC experiences or from your surrounding parish and civil community. ■

## **Introductory Rites**

### **Entrance Antiphon:**

*We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.*

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: We are gathered here today to celebrate God's gift of love and life which He decisively won for us through the Cross of His Son Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer. Today's feast of the Exaltation of the Cross reminds us that from this place of death arose the cancellation of our sins, the beginning of our Redemption and the emergence of a New World. Let us rejoice in the Cross, and carry the cause of the Cross of Jesus daily in Solidarity with the human condition's quest for a better life and the preservation of the integrity of Creation.

### **Penitential Act**

P: Brothers and sisters, to celebrate this sacrament of God's life and love worthily, let us now ask God's mercy and forgiveness for our God is full of gentleness and patience.

P: Lord Jesus, by your Incarnation, you crossed the boundaries of heaven and earth to be with us. Lord, have mercy.

*C: Lord, have mercy.*

P: Lord Jesus, by your humility you emptied yourself to fully share with us our deepest needs and aspirations. Christ, have mercy.

*C: Christ, have mercy.*

P: Lord Jesus, by your Cross you destroyed death and won for us eternal life. 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 willed that your Only Begotten Son should undergo the Cross to save the human race, grant, we pray, that we, who have known his mystery on earth, may merit the grace of his redemption in heaven. 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: Numbers 21:4b-9**

L: A reading from the Book of Numbers

With their patience worn out by the journey, the people complained against

God and Moses, “Why have you brought us up from Egypt to die in this desert, where there is no food or water? We are disgusted with this wretched food!” In punishment the LORD sent among the people saraph serpents, which bit the people so that many of them died. Then the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned in complaining against the LORD and you. Pray the LORD to take the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people, and the LORD said to Moses, “Make a saraph and mount it on a pole, and if any who have been bitten look at it, they will live.” Moses accordingly made a bronze serpent and mounted it on a pole, and whenever anyone who had been bitten by a serpent looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

#### **Commentary on Numbers 21:4b-9:**

This episode in the desert is probably taken from the legends concerning the folk or popular religiosity of ancient Israel’s ancestors. After a victorious battle with the Canaanites, the joyful celebration is tainted with the complaints and murmurings of the people again. They survive the bloody encounters, but they fear death due to hunger and thirst in the desert. Now before the punishing acts of Yahweh, Moses has to play his role as mediator once more. Yahweh then grants the request of Moses. The serpent that causes death is the very serpent that restores life and good health.

#### **Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38**

***R: Do not forget the works of the Lord!***

Hearken, my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable, I will utter mysteries from of old.

***R: Do not forget the works of the Lord!***

While he slew them they sought him and inquired after God again, Remembering that God was their rock and the Most High God, their redeemer.

***R: Do not forget the works of the Lord!***

But they flattered him with their mouths and lied to him with their tongues, Though their hearts were not steadfast toward him, nor were they faithful to his covenant.

***R: Do not forget the works of the Lord!***

But he, being merciful, forgave their sin and destroyed them not; Often he turned back his anger and let none of his wrath be roused.

***R: Do not forget the works of the Lord!***

#### **Commentary on Psalm 78:**

This psalm is a reflection of Israel’s history, wrapped in a parable, but articulated in a poetic and hymnic manner. It is a mysterious history of God’s marvelous deeds, punitive acts and merciful justice on the one hand, and the mysterious history of the people’s fidelity and infidelity, of believing in God’s marvelous deeds and of their complaints, murmurings and rebellion, on the other. Verses 32-39 appear as an intermission: a summary of the see-saw relationship between Yahweh and his people. Yahweh’s compassion is always greater than his anger and their sins!

#### **Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11**

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

Brothers and sisters: Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something

to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

### **Commentary on Philippians 2:6-11:**

This is one of the most moving hymns that Paul or the author, has used in order to describe the profound solidarity of the divine Jesus with the depth of the human condition. Written in prison for the Christian community of a prime city dedicated to the father of the Greek conqueror Alexander the Great and now a useful and powerful hub of the Roman Empire, a crossroad that connects Europe and Asia, the letter is written with full tenderness along the themes of Jesus' humiliation and exaltation. This theme is developed within the dynamic framework of Jesus' descent into the emptiness and nothingness of the human condition, only to ascend into the glory of God the Father, adored and hallowed by everyone and all of creation. This divine solidarity with the human condition is so audacious and so tender, made possible by the incarnation of one who has pre-existed equally with the Father. Yet he has disregarded his equality with God, and preferred instead to empty himself, becoming totally poor with humanity, in total obedience to the will of the

Father. It is his total solidarity with the masses, being thoroughly with the masses, and being the poorest servant of the poor that has led him to death, even death on the cross. It is that extreme emptiness and death on the cross that define his exaltation by the supreme and sovereign act of God: his resurrection. Now he is Lord, his name is proclaimed above every name: the Suffering Servant is now identified as Lord Yahweh from of old – Jesus Christ in the new time. So, we too must walk our way of the Cross – the true incarnation is in solidarity with the masses, with the poor in their struggle to retake the shared identity of divinity, in humility, suffering and death, even on the cross – in total obedience to the will of the Father. For a Christian, and for Paul's followers, there is no other way to the exaltation/resurrection but the cross of the incarnation, of emptiness, of solidarity and struggle with the human condition!

### **Alleluia Verse:**

**R: Alleluia, alleluia!** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your Cross you have redeemed the world! **R: Alleluia, alleluia.**

### **Gospel: John 3:13-17**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And with your spirit.*

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

C: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so

that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.” For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Commentary on John 3:13-17**

Jesus has inaugurated the new time and space of salvation. We know this by faith in Jesus and we enter it by baptism. Our entry into this new time and space is our new birth from above by baptism. But it is a baptism and new birth mediated by the passion and death of Jesus on the Cross, his throne of glory and our salvation. Jesus, with his suffering and death on the Cross – which has perfected the bronze serpent on the pole in the olden times – is proof of God’s love for the world: he did not come to condemn it but to save it through his Son. Indeed, God’s love, the actions of this love, is the origin and the cause of our eternal life.

**Homily: The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, shares in the exaltation of the Cross through the Cross of the Incarnation, Solidarity and Struggle!**

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, shares in the exaltation of the Cross through the Cross of the Incarnation, Solidarity and Struggle!	Cite concrete examples of mortal sins as decisive breaking off the relationship with God; of venial sins as diminishing intensity of that relationship. Cite real examples of Incarnation as “crossing the border” and Solidarity and Struggle.	“The lifting up of Jesus on the cross signifies and announces his lifting up by his ascension into heaven, and indeed begins it.” “.. in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

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**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, with exultation and praise to our heavenly Father, let us now offer to him our needs and petitions. For every prayer let our response be: Lord, embolden us to raise your Cross of Solidarity.

**R: Lord, embolden us to raise your Cross of Solidarity.**

L: Let us pray for the Church: that, being a Church of the Poor spread all over the world, she may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit as she seeks to experience the deepest human need, especially among the poor, and, sharing in their deepest aspirations, accompany them in their struggle for a better life and the preservation of the integrity of creation. Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Lord, embolden us to raise your Cross of Solidarity.**

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

example of imitating the incarnation and self-emptying of Jesus, they may draw the rich and the powerful to a humble self-emptying and sharing with poor and the little ones in the spirit of love, justice, solidarity and reconciliation. Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Lord, embolden us to raise your Cross of Solidarity.**

L: For world leaders and all those entrusted with governance and administration of the goods of the earth: that they continue to promote the common good by dismantling the walls of separation and violent division caused by race, religion, class and ideology through dialogue and concrete action on behalf of equality, unity and transformation. Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Lord, embolden us to raise your Cross of Solidarity.**

L: For all of us, inhabitants of the earth and citizens of heaven: that we may inspire one another to envision and build a future where everyone has a home, a job that sustains one's honor and dignity, a community of caring neighbors and friends, and an environment that is healthy and life-giving in whatever land and nation. Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Lord, embolden us to raise your Cross of Solidarity.**

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, embolden us to raise your Cross of Solidarity.**

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

**R: Lord, embolden us to raise your Cross of Solidarity.**

P: Lord God, these are the prayers we present to you today. Help us to appreciate and love your Cross of Solidarity; inspire us to build together a

new world of humble servants after your own heart on earth as we hope for the fullness of your Kingdom in Heaven. 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 this oblation, O Lord, which on the altar of the Cross canceled the offense of the whole world, cleanse us, we pray, of all our sins. 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 you placed the salvation of the human race on the wood of the Cross, so that, where death arose, life might again spring forth and the evil one, who conquered on a tree, might likewise on a tree be conquered, through Christ our Lord.

Through him the Angels praise your majesty, Dominions adore and Powers tremble before you, Heaven and the Virtues of heaven and the blessed Seraphim worship together with exultation. May our voices, we pray, join with theirs in humble praise, as 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:**

*When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself, says the Lord.*

### **Prayer after Communion**

P: Let us pray: Having been nourished by your holy banquet, we beseech you, Lord Jesus Christ, to bring those you have redeemed by the wood of your life-giving Cross to the glory of the resurrection. Who lives and reigns forever and ever.

C: *Amen.*

### **Final Blessing**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And with your spirit.*

P: Bow down for the blessing: May the sign of the Cross constantly remind us, O Lord, of the instrument of our Salvation in Christ Jesus, and may we walk always guided by the same Cross as we follow your Son in our daily life and love here on earth. 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 forth, the Mass is ended.

C: *Thanks be to God.* ■

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of the Poor,  
through the  
Basic  
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