

26 February 2012

1st Sunday of Lent

Year B

NATIONAL MIGRANTS' SUNDAY

Taking Christ's Gospel Seriously

Today, the First Sunday of Lent, we focus our attention on Jesus who, immediately after his baptism, is led by the Holy Spirit into the desert. There he spends forty days and forty nights, fasting, reflecting, praying and battling the devil victoriously. Then he begins his mission, inviting all to conversion. His invitation to take the Gospel seriously and change for the better is addressed also to us. The fruitfulness of this Lenten season depends to a great extent on our response to his invitation.

Today we also celebrate National Migrants' Sunday. As our fellow Filipinos migrate to other countries, they may suffer hardship, loneliness, or abuse. But they also bring with them the richness of our Catholic faith and traditions. And this is a great opportunity for them to bring the light of Christ to all the people they will meet.

As we are about to start our Eucharistic celebration, let us keep our Filipino migrants and their families close to our hearts.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

When he calls to me, I will answer; I will rescue him and give him honor. Long life and contentment will be his.

Greeting

P –The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!
All –And also with you!

Penitential Rite

P –With gratitude to the

Lord who calls us to conversion in this Lenten season, let us pause for a moment and realize how much we need his forgiveness and peace.
(Pause)

P –Lord Jesus, you overcame the devil's temptation in the power of the Spirit. Lord, have mercy!
All –Lord, have mercy!

P –Lord Jesus, you began your apostolic life by proclaiming the fulfillment of God's promises. Christ, have mercy!
All –Christ, have mercy!

P –Lord Jesus, you invite us to undergo conversion and believe in the Good

News. Lord, have mercy!

All –Lord, have mercy!

P –May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All –Amen!

Opening Prayer

P –Father, through our observance of Lent, help us to understand the meaning of your Son's death and resurrection, and teach us to reflect it in our lives.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All –Amen!

**LITURGY OF
THE WORD**



1st Reading Gn 9:8-15

After the purification brought about by the Flood, God is ready to make a fresh start with the few survivors. The covenant He intends to establish with Noah and his relatives is a sign of His enduring merciful love for all human beings.

R –A proclamation from the Book of Genesis

God said to Noah and to his sons with him: “See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you: all the birds, and the various tame and wild animals that were with you and came out of the ark. I will establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed by the waters of a flood; there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth.”

God added: “This is the sign that I am giving for all ages to come, of the covenant between me and you and every living creature with you: I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth, and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the covenant I have made between me and you and all living beings, so that the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all mortal beings.”

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

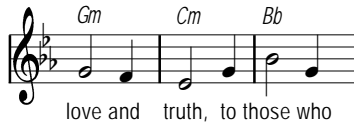
Responsorial Psalm Ps 25

R —Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth, to those who keep your covenant!

R. M. Velez



Your ways, O Lord, are



love and truth, to those who



keep your co-ve-nant!

* Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior. **R.**

* Remember that your compassion, O Lord, and your love are from of old. In your kindness remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**

* Good and upright is the Lord; thus he shows sinners the way. He guides the humble to justice, and he teaches the humble his way. **R.**

2nd Reading 1 Pt 3:18-22

Jesus Christ has saved all human beings through his passion, death and resurrection. His salvation reaches us through the sacrament of Baptism, which was foreshadowed by the purifying waters of the Flood. Such is the message addressed to us through the passage we are about to hear.

R —A proclamation from the First Letter of Peter

Beloved: Christ suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God.

Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit. In it he also went to preach to the spirits in the netherworld, who had once been disobedient while God patiently waited in the days of Noah during the building of the ark, in which a few persons, eight in all, were saved through water.

This prefigured baptism, which saves you now. It is not a removal of dirt from the body but an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus

Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

Verse before the Gospel

All—(Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!)
Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God!
(Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!)

Gospel Mk 1:12-15

In a few clear strokes, St. Mark portrays the first two steps taken by Jesus in his public life: victory over Satan in the desert, and the invitation to conversion addressed to all.

P —A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Mark

All—Glory to you, Lord!

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

The Gospel of the Lord!
All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

Profession of Faith

All—I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into

heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen!

Prayer of the Faithful

P –As we take the first steps in our Lenten pilgrimage, we realize our need to undergo conversion in response to the Lord's invitation. Aware of our faults and weaknesses, we cry out:

All—We beseech you, Lord, hear us!

C –For the entire Church who is always in need of conversion: May she follow the lead of the Spirit in rejecting all the allurements of Satan. Let us pray! **R.**

C – For the Holy Father and all other spiritual leaders: May their efforts to bring people closer to Jesus in this Lenten season be crowned with success. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all the migrant workers all over the world: May they be treated with respect and justice, and be soon reunited with their families. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all the Filipinos working abroad: May they treasure their dignity and faith, and be loyal to their dear ones. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all the preachers of retreats and recollections: May their words be a faithful echo of the message of Jesus and bring all to a lasting conversion. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all of us: May we spend this Lenten season in a spirit of penance and fruitful conversion from our un-Christian ways. Let us pray! **R.**

C –Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions. (Pause) Let us pray! **R.**

P –Lord Jesus, grant us the

grace we need to always reject the devil's temptations and live according to the Gospel you preached.

You who live and reign for ever and ever.

All—Amen!

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



Preparation of the Gifts

P –Pray, brethren . . .

All—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 Church.

Prayer over the Gifts

P –Lord, make us worthy to bring you these gifts. May this sacrifice help to change our lives.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

All—Amen!

Preface of Lent (1st Sun.)

P –Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord.

His fast of forty days makes this a holy season of self-denial. By rejecting the devil's temptations he has taught us to rid ourselves of the hidden corruption of evil, and so to share his paschal meal in purity of heart, until we come to its fulfillment in the promised land of heaven.

Now we join the angels and the saints as they sing their unending hymn of praise:

All—Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might; 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 –Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

All—Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory!

COMMUNION RITE



All—Our Father . . .

P –Deliver us, Lord . . .

All—For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All—Lamb of God . . .

Communion

P –This is the Lord Jesus, the conqueror of Satan. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

All—Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed!

Communion Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.)

Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Prayer after Communion

P –Father, you increase our faith and hope, you deepen our love in this communion. Help us to live by your words and to seek Christ, our bread of life, who is Lord for ever and ever.

All—Amen!

CONCLUDING RITE



P –The Lord be with you.

All—And also with you!

P –Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing. (Pause)

You believe that, by his dying, Christ destroyed death for ever. May he give you everlasting life.

All—Amen!

P –Jesus invites us to repent and believe in the Gospel. May he grant you a heart full of faith and compassion.

All—Amen!

P – He humbled himself for our sake. May you follow his example and share in his resurrection.

All–Amen!

P –May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All–Amen!

P –Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All–Thanks be to God!

The Call to Rise and Move Forward

Lent is a long journey with a clear purpose and a wonderful destination: sharing in the life of grace, the fruit of Christ's passion and resurrection. **It is a quest for a fuller life**, or – for those who have lost God's grace – **a repentant reaching out toward a renewed experience of God's friendship.**

In order to achieve such a purpose, we need to be properly guided. We all need a wise, knowledgeable, and trustworthy guide. People setting out on a journey in unfamiliar regions feel the need for maps and a guide – someone who knows the way and can lead the travelers safe and sound to their destination.

In our effort to regain or experience more fully the vibrant life of divine grace, **we Christians can find no better guide than the WORD OF GOD, both the Old and the New Testaments, and especially the Gospel**, which contains the Good News of our salvation and the indication as to how to achieve it.

Other books may be more attractive in their typographical presentation; more intriguing in their plots and sparkling in their language. But **no piece of literature can match the truthfulness and perennial relevance of the Gospel.** Wrapped in the simple words of men who lived more than 19 centuries ago, the Gospel contains a message which is the Word of God, the Word of Christ, the Man of the Good News, our Way, our Truth, our Life.

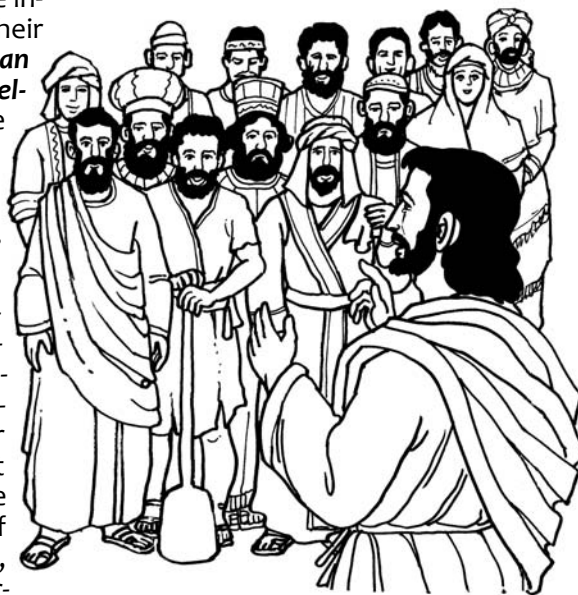
This Lent will be a golden opportunity for us to get acquainted with the content of the Gospel and listen to its heartening message. We can do so individually or with the other members of our family, group, class, or community. But reading it will not suffice. We shall have to *assimilate* its spirit through a work of prayerful reflection and interiorization, constantly open to the action of the Spir-

it at work in us in the teaching of the Church as well as in the “signs of the times” and the experiences and insights of communities and individuals.

The Gospel, as the divinely inspired guide, deserves to be trusted to the full. It bears the *hallmark of truth* on every page. Its author is no apprentice; its authentic interpreter, no amateur.

It also bears the *hallmark of life*, not only in the sense that it promises and leads to eternal life, but also in the sense that **its truth has to become part of our life.** We are expected to live out its message consistently, constantly, and bravely. The Gospel, more than any other trusted guide, has to *be obeyed* at all times, especially when it demands self-denial.

All this is not easy. Often it may demand that we change our way of thinking, or the way we relate to God and others. **It may demand a radical conversion.** Such is the spirit of Lent. Such is the call of Christ, addressed to each one of us, today.



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