

Year of
Consecrated Life



16 August 2015

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

JESUS, THE GREATEST CAREGIVER

Caregivers are very much in demand nowadays, especially for babies, elderly people, and handicapped persons. But all of us, and not just these people, are in need of “comprehensive care.” We need not just food, clothing and shelter, but especially acceptance, respect, affirmation, encouragement, and love. The one who is always ready and willing to satisfy all these needs is Jesus Christ, our greatest “Caregiver,” Redeemer, and “Bread of Life.”

Our Sunday Eucharist is a privileged manifestation of Jesus’ immense love for us, as he makes himself our spiritual nourishment. He is the source of our wisdom and strength. The Eucharist is also an opportunity for us to express our gratitude to him and to the Father for this most precious gift.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

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

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

Greeting

P –Blessed be Jesus, the Food of everlasting life. May his grace and peace be with you all!

All—**And with your spirit!**

Penitential Act

P –As we prepare to celebrate the Sacred Mysteries, let us call to mind our shortcomings and ask the Lord for pardon and strength. *(Pause)*

P –Lord Jesus, you are the living bread come down from heaven. Forgive our lack of faith in this great truth. Lord, have mercy!

All—**Lord, have mercy!**

P –Lord Jesus, your flesh is real food and your blood, real drink. Forgive our lack of appreciation for this great gift. Christ, have mercy!

All—**Christ, have mercy!**

P –Lord Jesus, you promise eternal life to those who receive you. Forgive the many sacrilegious communions and profanations committed everyday. 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!**

Gloria

All—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 *(Opening Prayer)*

P –O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire.

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.

All—**Amen!**

LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading

Prv 9:1-6

Today's passage from the Book of Proverbs expresses God's deep desire to have mankind share in His wisdom and life. This plan will be actualized fully in the Eucharistic banquet.

R –A proclamation from the Book of Proverbs

Wisdom has built her house, she has set up her seven columns; she has dressed her meat, mixed her wine, yes, she has spread her table.

She has sent out her maidens; she calls from the heights out over the city: "Let whoever is simple turn in here!" To the one who lacks understanding, she says, "Come, eat of my food, and drink of the wine I have mixed! Forsake foolishness that you may live. Advance in the way of understanding."

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

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 34

R –*Taste and see the goodness of the Lord!*

R. M. Velez



Taste and see the good-ness



of the Lord!

*** I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall be ever in my mouth. Let my soul glory in the Lord; the lowly will hear me and be glad.** **R.**

*** Glorify the Lord with me, let us together extol his name. I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.** **R.**

*** Look to Him that you may be radiant with joy, and your faces may not blush with**

shame. When the poor one called out, the Lord heard, and from all his distress He saved him. **R.**

2nd Reading

Eph 5:15-20

St. Paul exhorts us to keep careful watch over our conduct and to give thanks to the Father for everything. These are among the basic dispositions we need to have in order to receive Holy Communion fruitfully.

R –A proclamation from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:

Watch carefully how you live, not as foolish persons but as wise, making the most of the opportunity, because the days are evil.

Therefore, do not continue in ignorance, but try to understand what is the will of the Lord. And do not get drunk on wine, in which lies debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and playing to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks always and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.

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

Gospel Acclamation

All—Alleluia! Alleluia!

"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him," says the Lord.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel

Jn 6:51-58

Jesus' audience finds it ever more difficult to accept his invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood. Undeterred by their negative stand, Jesus emphasizes the wonderful effects which the reception of his body and blood produces in those who accept him with faith.

P –The Lord be with you!

All—And with your spirit!

P –A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to John

All—Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus said to the crowds: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

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

Homily

Profession of Faith

(Nicene Creed)

All—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, and became man. 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 as-

cended 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!

Prayer of the Faithful

P –Encouraged by the message coming from God’s Word, let us approach the Source of all goodness. To him let us present our humble petitions saying:

All—**Jesus, Bread of Life, hear our prayer!**

C –For the whole Catholic Church: May she ever more treasure the Eucharist as the Sacrament of the Lord’s Body and Blood, the Food of everlasting Life. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all our religious and civil leaders: May they serve the people of God with total dedication for the common good. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all the youth in our country: May they become more appreciative of the Eucharist by their active participation in the Mass. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For those who feel rejected, for the sick and the dying: May they experience in sacramental Communion the source of their hope and the root of everlasting life. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all of us present in this Eucharistic celebration: May we live the spirit of this Sacrament through acts of charity and generous availability. Let us pray! **R.**

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

P –Lord Jesus, we thank you for the priceless gift of the Eucharist and pray that we may always live according to the message that comes to us from this great Sacrament. 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 holy Church.**

Prayer over the Offerings

P –Receive our oblation, O Lord, by which is brought about a glorious exchange, that, by offering what you have given, we may merit to receive your very self.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—**Amen!**

Preface of the Holy Eucharist I

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 he is the true and eternal Priest, who instituted the pattern of an everlasting sacrifice and was the first to offer himself as the saving Victim, commanding us to make this offering as his memorial.

As we eat his flesh that was sacrificed for us, we are made strong, and, as we drink his Blood that was poured out for us, we are washed clean.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

All—**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!

Memorial Acclamation

P –The mystery of faith!

All—**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again!**

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 Jesus, the Bread of Life, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to his supper.

All—**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

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

I am the living bread that came down from heaven, says the Lord. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever.

Prayer after Communion

P –Made partakers of Christ through these Sacraments, we humbly implore your mercy, Lord, that, conformed to his image on earth, we may merit also to be his coheirs in heaven.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All—**Amen!**

CONCLUDING RITES



P –The Lord be with you.

All—**And with your spirit!**

P –Bow your heads and pray for God’s blessing. (*Pause*)
May the Eucharist you have received bear fruit in your life.

All–Amen!

P –May almighty God keep you from all harm and fill you with every good gift.

All–Amen!

P –May you walk in His ways, always knowing what is right and good, until you enter your heavenly inheritance.

All–Amen!

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

All–Amen!

P –Go in peace and live wisely under the guidance of God’s wisdom.

All–Thanks be to God!



BICENTENARY OF HIS BIRTH
1815 • DON BOSCO • 2015

DON BOSCO, THE CONQUEROR OF HEARTS – Part 2

* *Fr. Sal Putzu, SDB*

Don Bosco felt encouraged by the teaching and example of the great spiritual writer Francis de Sales, a bishop who lived about two-and-a-half centuries earlier, and who was renowned for his kindness, patience and optimism. He was the one who said that “we get more flies with a drop of honey, than with a barrel of vinegar” (“the honey,” meaning “kind manners,” and “the vinegar,” “rough or aggressive ways”). Don Bosco took that saint not only as his protector, but also as his living example of gentleness.

Another model to be followed was St. Philip Neri, a priest who lived three centuries earlier, who attracted the young like a magnet and conquered their hearts with his cheerfulness. He was the first who said to his young friends: “Run, jump, shout, but don’t commit sin!” Don Bosco made that sentence his own as the “style” that would characterize the way he would treat the youngsters who roamed the streets of Turin.

He started gathering swarms of them on Sundays, leading them to open spaces where they could play to their hearts’ content, but also learn the basic truths of the Christians faith and some simple prayers, followed by an appreciated “merienda” . . . That was how Don Bosco established his first “Oratory,” an intriguing term he had borrowed from Philip Neri to indicate not just a place but a lifestyle where pleasant activities and prayers were wisely blended.

But if the running and the jumping and the noise made by those hundreds of wayward urchins pleased Don Bosco, it also did hurt the ears and sensitivity of the owners of the places where he gathered them. And so he had to move his noisy troop from one location to another in a seemingly endless quest for a stable, welcoming place they could call “home.”

But Divine Providence took care of his financial and logistic needs. He did find a stable place for his Oratory in the district of Valdocco, where he was able to build a dormitory where the boys from the provinces could find a safe environment. He also built a boarding school and workshops where the boys learned various trades such as carpentry, shoemaking, and tailoring. Those with a natural inclination for music were even given a chance to play musical instruments. That was how the brass band of the Oratory came into existence – a band which was among the main attractions of each event, and whose performances, according to Don Bosco, were to be listened to more with the heart, rather than with the ears . . .

From “Wild Animals” to Gentle Lambs

Don Bosco showed his love for the boys in endless ways,

and most of them reciprocated his love with grateful enthusiasm. Such mutual love produced wonderful fruits not only with exceptionally good and talented boys like Dominic Savio (who was already very good when he was accepted in the Oratory), but also with problematic youngsters whom almost everybody else considered “lost,” if not “damned” altogether.

The most remarkable instance of the effectiveness of Don Bosco’s style as an educator was Mickey Magone, a boy he met by chance at a railway station. That boy was a gang leader who could either have become another Garibaldi or end up in jail. Sensing that danger, Don Bosco invited Mickey to stay with him at the Oratory. There, the exuberant teenager found himself perfectly at home in all games but quite uneasy at prayer time. Gradually, however, thanks to Don Bosco’s patience, tactfulness and wise guidance, “General Mickey” underwent a marvellous transformation. In just one-year-and-a-half, he became a champion in the practice of all virtues. He, too, like Dominic Savio, died a saintly death at a very early age. And Don Bosco wrote his life, as he had done for Dominic, to propose him as a model, especially to the wayward boys.

Another example of transformation “from wild animals to lambs” was the one that took place in the young inmates of one of Turin’s prisons, called “La Generala.” Don Bosco had given a retreat to some 300 of them. His words touched their hearts so deep that most of them went to confession and received Holy Communion. (Something most of them had not done for many years!) To reward them, Don Bosco would have liked to take them out on an excursion for one day. But the prison director wouldn’t even hear of it, for he feared (and with good reason) that not one of those young convicts would come back. Don Bosco went straight to the Minister of Justice and made the same request. After some bargaining, the Minister, who knew and admired the great work Don Bosco was doing for the poor and uncared-for young people, granted his request, including the absence of any police escort in plain clothes.

The young inmates had a grand time in the open air. And by sundown, all the three hundred went back to the jail, as meek as lambs and as happy as anyone can be, to the immense surprise (and relief) of the prison director who kept wondering how that priest had been able to get such a hold on those “scums of society” . . .

These are just some of the wonderful results Don Bosco obtained by applying his educative system based on the three “pillars” of reason, religion, and loving kindness. Such system has its roots in the dream Johnny Bosco had at nine years of age, and it still is the “trademark” of the Salesians today in all their institutions and initiatives.



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