

Year of  
Consecrated Life



27 September 2015

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

NATIONAL SEAFARERS' DAY • NATIONAL LAITY WEEK

## Learning from a Most Generous God

**O**n this last Sunday of September, we thank the Lord for the many blessings He has granted us this month. He is a most generous God. At the same time, we are invited to grow spiritually by practising magnanimity and rejecting its opposite. We are likewise challenged to set our priorities right and be prepared to pay the price that a proper scale of priorities entails.

As we celebrate “Laity Week” from September 27 to October 3, we commend to the Lord all lay people so that they may actively spread the Gospel through their words and their deeds.

And since today is also NATIONAL SEAFARERS' DAY, we remember with special love and concern the three hundred thousand Filipinos who serve in the domestic and international maritime industry. They work away from their homes so that their families may live a decent life and enjoy an even better future. Let the offering of this Eucharistic sacrifice for our seafarers be the best sign of our solidarity with them.



### INTRODUCTORY RITES



#### Entrance Antiphon

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

**All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgment, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.**

#### Greeting

**P** –Grace and peace from God our Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit be with you all!

**All**–And with your spirit!

#### Penitential Act

**P** –My brothers and sisters,

as we prepare ourselves to celebrate the Sacred Mysteries, let us see if we have made our own the priorities of the Gospel.  
*(Pause)*

**P** –For our petty acts of envy and any attempt to monopolize you, Lord, have mercy!

**All**–Lord, have mercy!

**P** –For our insensitivity toward the plight of the poor and the marginalized in our society, Christ, have mercy!

**All**–Christ, have mercy!

**P** –For our unwise choosing of what is immediately gratifying without considering its disastrous consequences for our eternal destiny, 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 manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven.

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** Nm 11:25-29

*God is absolutely free in the distribution of His gifts. Although He Himself sets up "ordinary channels" for their distribution, He also acts outside these "official structures," for His love reaches out to all. Such is the message of today's First Reading.*

**R** –A proclamation from the Book of Numbers

The Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to Moses. Taking some of the spirit that was on Moses, the Lord bestowed it on the seventy elders; and as the spirit came to rest on them, they prophesied. Now two men, one named Eldad and the other Medad, were not in the gathering but had been left in the camp. They too had been on the list, but had not gone out to the tent; yet the spirit came to rest on them also, and they prophesied in the camp.

So, when a young man quickly told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp," Joshua, son of Nun, who from his youth had been Moses' aide, said, "Moses, my lord, stop them!" But Moses answered him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets! Would that the Lord might bestow his spirit on them all!"

The Word of the Lord!

**All**—Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm Ps 19

**R** –*The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart!*

R. M. Velez



The pre-cepts of the Lord give



joy to the heart!

\* The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul; the decree of the Lord is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple. **R.**

\* The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true, all of them just. **R.**

\* Though your servant is careful of them, very diligent in keeping them, yet who can detect failings? Cleanse me from my unknown faults! **R.**

\* From wanton sin especially, restrain your servant; let it not rule over me. Then shall I be blameless and innocent of serious sin. **R.**

**2nd Reading** Jas 5:1-6

*The blessings we receive in this life are not meant for our selfish enjoyment, but to enable us to do good to those in need. Failure to do so, St. James reminds us today, is the sign of a hardened heart which will be judged very severely by God.*

**R** –A proclamation from the Letter of James

Come now, you rich, weep and wail over your impending miseries. Your wealth has rotted away, your clothes have become moth-eaten, your gold and silver have corroded, and that corrosion will be a testimony against you; it will devour your flesh like a fire.

You have stored up treasure for the last days. Behold, the wages you withheld from the workers who harvested your fields are crying aloud;

and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.

You have lived on earth in luxury and pleasure; you have fattened your hearts for the day of slaughter. You have condemned; you have murdered the righteous one; he offers you no resistance.

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

**Gospel Acclamation**

**All**—Alleluia! Alleluia!

Your word, O Lord, is truth; consecrate us in the truth.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Gospel** Mk 9:38-43,45,47-48

*Jesus taught his disciples to be broad-minded and generous, responsible and wise in their choices, for no good will be left unrewarded, no evil will be left unpunished. Such is the message offered us by today's Gospel.*

**P** –The Lord be with you!

**All**—And with your spirit!

**P** –A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Mark

**All**—Glory to you, O Lord!

At that time, John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us." Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us.

Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward. Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were put around his neck and he were thrown into the sea.

If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for

**you to enter into life crippled than with two feet to be thrown into Gehenna. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. Better for you to enter into the Kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into Gehenna, where ‘their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’ ”**

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 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!

### Prayer of the Faithful

**P**—Today’s readings remind us

of the duty to live in the light of God’s law and to overcome all forms of narrowmindedness. Aware of our weakness in meeting these demands, we humbly pray:

**All—Lord God, be merciful to Your people!**

**C** —That all Catholics may always be ready to cooperate with all honest people in promoting whatever is good and constructive, let us pray! **R.**

**C** —That the leaders of our communities may be as open-minded as Moses and Jesus in discerning the work of the Spirit, even outside the “official structures” of the Church, let us pray! **R.**

**C** —That the lay members of the Church, who account for more than 99 percent of the faithful, may all be aware of their dignity and fulfill their duty to be builders of the kingdom in our society, let us pray! **R.**

**C** —That our seafarers and their families may remain faithful to their Christian commitment and treasure the bond of mutual love, in spite of their physical separation, let us pray! **R.**

**C** —That employers and government officials may give what is justly due to their employees and constituents, let us pray! **R.**

**C** —That all of us may realize that the wealth and blessings God gives us are meant not to be hoarded but to be shared, especially to those in need, let us pray! **R.**

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

**P** —Lord God, teach us to rejoice in the good of others, and to join hands with them in promoting the values of the Kingdom which Your Son came to establish. You who live and reign for ever and ever.

**All—Amen!**



**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** —Grant us, O merciful God, that this our offering may find acceptance with you and that through it the wellspring of all blessing may be laid open before us.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All—Amen!**

### Preface 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 through his paschal mystery, he accomplished the marvelous deed, by which he has freed us from the yoke of sin and death, summoning us to the glory of being now called a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for your own possession, to proclaim everywhere your mighty works, for you have called us out of darkness into your own wonderful light.

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 . . .**

### Memorial Acclamation

**P** —The mystery of faith!

**All—We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again!**



**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 who challenges us to reject envy in all its forms. He is 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.)*

**Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.**

## Prayer after Communion

**P** —May this heavenly mystery, O Lord, restore us in mind and body, that we may be coheirs in glory with Christ, to whose suffering we are united whenever we proclaim his Death.

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 Lord, in His love, fill you with His wisdom so that you may choose and do what is pleasing to Him.

**All—Amen!**

**P** —May He give you a magnanimous heart which rejoices in the good that others have or do.

**All—Amen!**

**P** —May He grant you the strength that you need to make even great sacrifices in order to inherit everlasting life.

**All—Amen!**

**P** —And may the blessing of almighty God: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit descend upon you and remain with you for ever.

**All—Amen!**

**P** —Go in peace glorifying the Lord by your life!

**All—Thanks be to God!**

## Learning from God to be Broad-minded

**J**esus must have had a hard time in forming his disciples. Their moral defects were continuously surfacing in attitudes and acts which surprise us, when they do not scandalize us altogether. **Their attempt to stop a man from expelling demons in the name of Jesus just because he was not one of their "group" (see Mk 9:38) reveals a "ghetto mentality" absolutely incompatible with the universality of Christ's message.**

The roots of such an attitude are *pride, possessiveness, envy* . . . They try to thrive in the hearts of all men. Together, these negative tendencies blind many people into believing that they are the very best and should, as far as possible, remain "uncontaminated" by contact with "lower races" or classes . . .

**This is one of the reasons why we put so many barriers in our lives, and we see a proliferation of barkedas, fraternities, syndicates, elitist groups . . . whose main concern seems to be the exclusion (if not the suppression) of the non-members.** These are squalid fortress of pride, individualism, social discrimination, racism! . . .

When these forms of pride, envy, or self-exaltation try to find religious justifications, then we come very near the impious attempt to monopolize God and even lecture Him on how He should run the world.

**The temptation to monopolize God and railroad**

**His activity is a perennial danger with some church people.** Not a few have become experts in this abominable form of witchcraft. Such an attitude is the total denial of genuine faith.

**Faith is, first of all, humility. It is the desire to let God be God.** Let God be free — free to take His initiatives; free to use His gifts and people the way He thinks best. No one should dare attempt to limit God's presence to the structures to which he/she belongs. Not even when these structures bear God's very name and seal, and have their origin in Him.

**God is infinitely greater than any earthly structure or vision.** His wisdom follows ways unknown even to the most perceptive of us. **His love can use sinners to make saints holier.** It can make use of the fury of persecutors to purify His very Church and render it more detached, humbler, more faithful to her Lord . . .

Once we understand and accept this fundamental Christian truth, we will be respectful of God's freedom, and work for the fulfillment of one of the most demanding petitions of "The Lord's Prayer": "Your will be done!" **God's will, not ours! Then we will also be magnanimous toward those who do not share our likings or display our badge.** And, at the same time, we will be very demanding with ourselves, as the final verses of today's Gospel passage forcefully put it. *(See Mk 9:43.45.47.)*



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