



EUCHALET

19 June 2016

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

FATHER'S DAY

SOLIDARITY IN CARRYING THE CROSS

In the Gospel, Jesus reminds us that, in order to be numbered among his disciples, we must be prepared to share in his destiny of suffering and trials.

A solid, mature Christian faith accepts both lights and shadows, pleasant and unpleasant events, joys and sorrows; for such, indeed, is the life of man on earth. But over and above these contrasts and unpleasant situations, the man/woman of faith holds with equal and even stronger certainty that God know best and is always in control.

In this Eucharist, let us pray that as we embrace our "cross," we also may become "Christ-like." This will empower us to carry our crosses bravely and face the hardships of life with a stout heart and unwavering faith till we reach the heavenly reward which our hearts long for.

Today we also observe Father's Day. This is for all of us a unique opportunity to show our love for the person who has loved us so much. With grateful love we will pray not only for our own father, but also for all fathers in the world. To all the fathers present here, we wish you a HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

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

The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them for ever.

Greeting

P –Blessed be Jesus who saved us from the curse of sin and death. 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 sins and ask the Lord for pardon and strength. *(Pause)*

P –For the times we have placed all our trust in material resources rather than in your grace, Lord, have mercy!

All–**Lord, have mercy!**

P –For the times we have caused others to be discouraged, instead of being for them a source of enthusiasm and strength, Christ, have mercy!

All–**Christ, have mercy!**

P –For the times we have failed to bravely witness to Jesus and his Gospel in our daily life, 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 Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen!

Collect (Opening Prayer)

P –Grant, O Lord, that we may always revere and love your holy name, for you never deprive of your guidance those you set firm on the foundation of your love.

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 *Zec 12:10-11;13:1*
Addressing his message to the discouraged Jews who were

finding it hard to rebuild Jerusalem after the Exile in Babylon, the prophet Zechariah speaks of an anonymous victim whose sacrifice will be a source of purification for the entire nation.

R –A proclamation from the Book of the Prophet Zechariah

Thus says the Lord:

“I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and petition.

And they shall look on him whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him as one mourns for an only son, and they shall grieve over him as one grieves over a first-born.

On that day the mourning in Jerusalem shall be as great as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

On that day there shall be open to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, a fountain to purify from sin and uncleanness.”

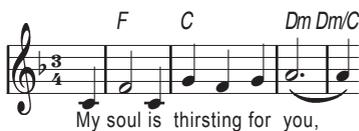
The Word of the Lord!

All– Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm Ps 63

R –*My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God!*

R. M. Velez



*** O God, you are my God whom I seek; for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.** **R.**

*** Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary to see your power and your glory, for your kindness is a greater good than life; my lips shall glorify you.** **R.**

*** Thus will I bless you while I live; lifting up my hands, I**

will call upon your name. As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied, and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you. **R.**

*** You are my help, and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy. My soul clings fast to you; your right hand upholds me.** **R.**

2nd Reading Gal 3:26-29

Faith in Jesus Christ and baptism fashion us into another Christ. This new common identity should enable us to overcome all differences based on race, social class, or gender. Such is the message conveyed by St. Paul not only to the faithful of Galatia but also to us today.

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

Brothers and sisters:

Through faith you are all children of God in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendant, heirs according to the promise.

The Word of the Lord!

All–Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation Jn 10:27

All–Alleluia! Alleluia!

“My sheep hear my voice,” says the Lord; “I know them, and they follow me.” Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 9:18-24

Jesus knew that the cross loomed large on his destiny and did his best to prepare his disciples to accept such a harsh reality. But he also impressed on them that the cross and self-denial are also part of the destiny of his followers.

P –The Lord be with you!

All–And with your spirit!

P –A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All–Glory to you, O Lord!

Once when Jesus was praying in solitude, and the disciples were with him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say that I am?” They said in reply, “John the Baptist: others, Elijah; still others, ‘One of the ancient prophets has arisen.’ ”

Then he said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter said in reply, “The Christ of God.” Jesus rebuked them and directed them not to tell this to anyone. He said, “The Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”

Then he said to all, “If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.”

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, (bow)* 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 –Aware of our past shortcomings and our weakness, let us turn to the Lord, the source of all strength, and implore from him the grace we need to follow him faithfully, in spite of all difficulties. Let our response be:

All– Lord, help us embrace our cross!

C –For the universal Church: May she faithfully continue to proclaim the salvation that comes from the Cross of Christ to a world that appreciates only comfort and success. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For the Holy Father, our bishop and priests, and other people in authority: May the Lord grant them the strength they need to carry the cross of their responsibilities with unwavering faithfulness. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all those who feel crushed by the many crosses of life: May they find in their Christian faith and the support of the community the courage they need to carry on with dignity and hope. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all fathers in our community and throughout the world: May they enjoy the respect and love of their children and the other members of their families. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all fathers who feel overburdened by the difficulties and trials of life: May the love and solidarity of the other members of their family give them

the strength they need to live up to their responsibilities. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all of us: As we experience hardships and trials, may we be purified of our sins and weaknesses and so become even more like Christ. Let us pray! **R.**

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

P –Lord God, continue to support us in our effort to remain faithful to you in the fulfillment of our daily duties even when this entails personal sacrifice. May your grace and love be the source of our strength. You who live and reign forever and ever! **All**–Amen!



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, O Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation and praise and grant that, cleansed by its action, we may make offering of a heart pleasing to you.

Through Christ our Lord.

All–Amen!

Preface VIII

P –The Lord be with you!

All–And with your spirit!

P –Lift up your hearts!

All–We lift them up to the Lord!

P –Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All–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 when your children were scattered afar by sin, through the Blood of your Son and the power of the Spirit, you gathered them again to yourself, that a people,

formed as one by the unity of the Trinity, made the body of Christ and the temple of the Holy Spirit, might, to the praise of your manifold wisdom, be manifest as the Church.

And so, in company with the choirs of Angels, we praise you, and with joy we proclaim:

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 –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.

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 Good Shepherd, and I lay down my life for my sheep, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

P –Renewed and nourished by the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of your Son, we ask of your mercy, O Lord, that what we celebrate with constant devotion may be our sure pledge of redemption.

Through Christ our Lord.

All–Amen!

CONCLUDING RITES



P –The Lord be with you.

All–**And with your spirit!**

P –May almighty God bless

you: the Father, and the
Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All–**Amen!**

P –Go in peace, glorifying the
Lord by your life!

All–**Thanks be to God!**



A LIFE OF DISCIPLESHIP

Today Jesus tells us that a life of discipleship is inevitably characterized by solidarity with him in carrying our daily crosses, even as the Cross is the inseparable symbol of the Master.

The cross, of course, was not what **Jesus** deserved, but dying on it was the price he had come to pay to atone for the sins of all human beings. Such was his mission. That was his destiny. And he did not run away from it, nor did he reject it disdainfully as something unbecoming. He **embraced his cross with a brave heart**, till they became inseparable – one single reality held together by the bond of a love forged in heaven.

Jesus clung to the cross, almost passionately, as something most precious. As it was dramatically portrayed in the movie “The Passion of the Christ,” we see that Jesus continues to carry the heavy cross even after the Roman soldiers have forced Simon of Cyrene to relieve him. The two carry the cross together, shoulder to shoulder, arms over each other’s shoulder, like friends staggering together, in a climb made smoother by the mutual help.

This is how Simon of Cyrene came to be numbered among the disciples of Jesus. He was coming from the fields, . . . coming from nowhere. His association with Jesus and his cross made him “someone.” It made him “great.” Thanks to the help he extended to Jesus, Simon’s name will be remembered with admiration by all generations till the end of time.

Simon helped Christ carry the cross of mankind’s spiritual bankruptcy and, in the process, he came to realize he was carrying his own cross . . . This is what Jesus, in today’s Gospel, asks all his prospective disciples to do: “If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow me.” This is no picnic. It is not something that one does once in a lifetime. It is a burden we are expected to carry every day – “daily,” says Jesus! – as sure as the

sun rises, for the cross is an essential component of our destiny, too! . . .

Such a prospect could be terrifying. Not a few tend to run away from it. They try to avoid suffering at all costs. Thus, their life becomes an endless, almost breathless quest for a happiness that continually eludes them. In the process, these professional “**cross dodgers**” **dig their own graves for they miss their appointment with Christ, the only one who can give direction, meaning, and value to their lives . . .**

Very different from this is the life of a real disciple. To be sure, he/she does not seek suffering under the compulsion of an enslaving masochism, for he/she knows that the final destiny of mankind is not suffering but happiness. At the same time, a disciple **does not shun away from suffering as if it were the worst enemy**. He/she knows that the real enemy is not suffering but **SIN**. That, and only that, is **the ugly thing a disciple avoids at all costs**.

But this can be attained only by **staying close to Jesus, as close as true friends can be, rain or shine, come what may!** When the cross falls on any of them, they still stick together, sharing its burden as they share the joy of companionship, ready to die together. Ready to die for each other. That’s genuine devotion. That’s cross-proof friendship. That’s how redemption becomes the wonderful reality in which God’s mercy buttresses our misery, and He and us become one new reality bonded inseparably by mutual love.

This is how human life becomes a journey to eternal life; the journey of conversion, offering and reparation. In this journey, **the crosses which we encounter become the bridges that enable us to span crevasses and scale mountains. And this because we constantly do our best not only to live in imitation of Jesus, but also to suffer in union with him.**

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