



EUCHALETTE

15 January 2017

FEAST OF THE STO. NIÑO

Year A

Loving the Child Jesus in the Children and Youth of Today

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Sto. Niño, the yearly observance that is so dear to the hearts of all Filipino Catholics. This feast brings us back to the beginning of the Christianization of our land. It also enables us to see the relevance of this devotion to our lives today. In a special manner, it forces us to focus on our children and youth, with all the dangers that threaten them, the problems they pose and the hopes they raise.

This feast, and especially the Eucharistic celebration we are about to start, are fresh opportunities for us to entrust our “niños” and youth to the protection and guidance of the Holy Child and to love them as he does. He, who is so much a part of our history and our lives, will surely take care of our children and young people, and will teach us how to do likewise.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

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

Let the children come to me and do not hinder them.

Greeting

P –Blessed be Jesus who showed a special love for children and young people. May his grace and peace be with you all!
All –**And with your spirit!**

Penitential Act

P –Coming together as God’s family on this Feast of the Sto. Niño, let us ask the Lord’s forgiveness, that we may offer this Eucharist with a purified heart.
(Pause)

P –Lord Jesus, your kingdom is universal and for ever peaceful. Lord, have mercy!

All –**Lord, have mercy!**

P –Lord Jesus, you came to share the frailty of our human nature. Christ, have mercy!

All –**Christ, have mercy!**

P –Lord Jesus, you want the children and youth to come close to you. 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 –Almighty God, your only Son, begotten from all ages, humbled himself as a child in Nazareth and became subject to Mary and Joseph. Grant that we may learn from his example to embrace your will in all things and, holding fast to the dignity of all, serve our lowly brothers and sisters with open hands and gentle heart.

We ask this 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 *Is 9:1-6*

The oracle we are about to hear proclaimed is a prophecy about a mysterious child – the Messiah – who brings the light of God’s love into the world darkened by sin.

R – A proclamation from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, as they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as people make merry when dividing spoils. For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, and the rod of their taskmaster you have smashed, as on the day of Midian. For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak rolled in blood, will be burned as fuel for flames.

For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful. He will rule as David’s successor, basing his power on right and justice, from now until the end of time. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

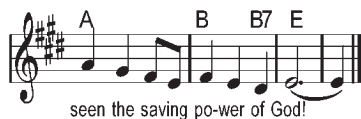
The Word of the Lord!

All – Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 98*

R – *All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God!*

R. M. Velez



* **Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done wondrous**

deeds: his right hand has won victory for him, his holy arm.

R.

* **The Lord has made his salvation known; in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice. He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness toward the house of Israel.**

R.

* **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation by our God. Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands; break into song; sing praise!**

R.

* **Sing praise to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and melodious song. With trumpets and the sound of the horn, sing joyfully before the King, the Lord!**

R.

2nd Reading *Eph 1:3-6.15-18*

In this prayer of praise and petition, Paul expresses some of the most consoling truths of our faith.

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

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him. In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favor of his will, for the praise of the glory of his grace that he granted us in the beloved. Therefore, I, too, hearing of your faith in the Lord Jesus and of your love for all the holy ones, do not cease giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones.

The Word of the Lord!

All – Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation *Jn 1:14.12*

All – Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. Any who did accept him, he empowered to become children of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel *Mt 18:1-5.10*

From a simple question about who ranks first in the Kingdom of God, Jesus takes the opportunity to teach us how much he values children, and how much we too should value and love them.

P – The Lord be with you!

All – And with your spirit!

P – A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All – Glory to you, O Lord!

At that time the disciples approached Jesus and said, “Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven?”

He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said, “Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me.

Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father.”

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 –As we honor the Sto. Niño, let us turn our attention to our children and youth and pray for all their needs, saying:

All–**Jesus, help us become like children!**

C –That the whole Church, under the leadership of the Holy Father, our bishop, and priests, may always show a special practical love for our children and youth, let us pray! *R.*

C –That all teachers and the Media may help our children and youth imbibe authentic values and motivate them to live by such values, let us pray! *R.*

C –That the children and youth of our nation may grow in dedication, honesty, and purity, treasuring and practising their Catholic faith, let us pray! *R.*

C –That all parents may care

for their children as Mary and Joseph cared for Jesus, and bring them up as upright citizens and zealous members of the Church, let us pray! *R.*

C –That all the devotees of the Sto. Niño may persevere in their efforts to grow in love of God and neighbor, let us pray! *R.*

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

Let us pray! *R.*

P –Lord, grant us a dedicated concern for the children and the youth of today. May we work for their total welfare for love of you who live and reign for ever 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 –God, our Creator, we offer the gifts of bread and wine to recall the childhood of your only Son. Let our offering become the sacrifice of him who brought forgiveness and peace to the world.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All–Amen!

Preface of Nativity II

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, through Christ our Lord.

For on the feast of this awe-filled mystery, though invisible in his own divine

nature, he has appeared visibly in ours; and begotten before all ages, he has begun to exist in time; so that, raising up in himself all that was cast down, he might restore unity to all creation and call straying humanity back to the heavenly Kingdom.

And so, with all the Angels, we praise you, as in joyful celebration, 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!**



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 model of our children and youth. 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 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.*)

“Whoever welcomes one such child for my sake,” says the Lord, “welcomes me.”

Prayer after Communion

P –Loving Father, you have nourished us at the banquet

in honor of the Child born of the Virgin. We pray that we may advance in wisdom and grow daily in faith and works of love, so that we may find favor in your sight.

Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All–Amen!



P –The Lord be with you.

All–And with your spirit!

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

May God enable you to appreciate the importance of our children and youth for the life of the Church and society.

All–Amen!

P –May He make you His privileged instruments in promoting the welfare and growth of the young people in our country.

All–Amen!

P –May He reward with eternal life your efforts to edify the young generation with your good example.

All–Amen!

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!



Tune in to Radio Veritas (846 kHz) every Saturday from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

and feel a part of – the interactive radio program

that helps you discover the message of each Sunday Theme and Biblical readings and how it can empower your life, your family, and your community.

Learning To Love Children and Youth as Jesus Loves Them

All children are lovable, not just the small babies or the cute, the healthy, and the bright ones. In their eyes full of light, wonder and innocence, there is an almost irresistible fascination which arouses in every normal human being (and even in animals!) feelings of tenderness and care. Each little boy or girl is a reminder of a world of innocence, dreams and hopes which most adults have lost sight of.

All children need to be loved. But many are not. Far too many are not loved in the right manner. Some receive too much and become “spoiled brats,” groomed to be the tyrants of tomorrow. Others receive too little – much less than they need for their physical, intellectual, psychological, and affective development. Their lives are shortened, their faces ploughed by the deep furrows of neglect, deprivation, and the unconscious feeling of not being loved as they should

Other children – most of them recruited from the previous immense crowd – **are “used” by unscrupulous and wicked adults.** They are destroyed by the cruelty of those who enjoy immolating them to the gods of greed and carnal pleasure.

Still **others** – their numbers growing more

and more! – **are not even allowed to see the light of day,** butchered as they are right in the wombs of their mothers, victims of unconquered lust, shame, pride, greed

We see all these things happening every day, for decades now, even in our country, the Philippines, the land of beautiful children, the land of the Sto. Niño!

Words are unable to express the horror which **malnutrition, child exploitation, child prostitution, and abortion** arouse in us. And in God, more than in us! **There is something devilish in all these forms of human degradation.**

Jesus showed his love for the children of his time. (*See today’s Gospel passage.*) In the brightness of their eyes he saw mirrored the freshness and holiness of the Kingdom. He expects that we show the same concrete love for the children of our time.

Our devotion to the Holy Child must not stop at honoring his image. It must lead us to practical concern for the millions of “niños” in this country and all over the world. They are the most defenseless victims of the indifference, greed and lust of too many adults who are a disgrace to our nation and humankind.



**WORD & LIFE
PUBLICATIONS**

Don Bosco Compound, A. Arnaiz Ave. cor. Chino Roces Ave., Makati, Metro Manila

Postal Address: P.O. Box 1820, MCPO, 1258 Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines

Tel. Nos. 894-5401; 894-5402; 892-2169 • Telefax: 894-5241 • Website: www.wordandlife.org

• E-mail: marketing@wordandlife.org, wordandlifepublications@gmail.com • FB: Word & Life Publications

• Editorial Team: Fr. S. Putzu, G. Ramos, R. Molomog, V. David, D. Daguio

• Illustrations: A. Sarmiento, B. Cleofe • Circulation: R. Saldua