



EUCHALETTE

27 August 2017

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

UNDER THE STEWARDSHIP OF PETER

 In this Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Lord invites us to reflect on the mystery of the Church and her leadership as instruments of God's plan for the spread of the Kingdom. We thank the Lord for having called us to be part of His new People. We can thereby enjoy the gifts of God's Word, the grace of the Sacraments, and the infallible guidance of our Church leaders in matters of doctrine and morals.

In brotherly solidarity with the whole Church, we direct, in a special manner, our affectionate thoughts to the Holy Father, the successor of the apostle Peter and the Vicar of Jesus Christ on earth. In communion with him and all believers, let us offer this Eucharist in behalf of and for the needs of all mankind.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

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

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

Greeting

P –Blessed be the Lord Jesus Christ who established the Church on the rock of Peter's faith. May his grace and peace be with you all!

All –**And with your spirit!**

Penitential Act

P –Gathered together to offer the Eucharistic Sacrifice and receive the Bread of Life, let us once again realize our unworthiness and the need to be purified from all our sins. *(Pause)*

P –You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God! Lord, have mercy!

All –**Lord, have mercy!**

P –You founded your Church to be for all ages the sacrament of salvation. Christ, have mercy!

All –**Christ, have mercy!**

P –You entrusted to Peter the keys of the Kingdom of heaven. 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 cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found.

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 22:19-23*
In Biblical times, to give the keys of a house to a person

meant to bestow on him the power of stewardship over that house. The “promise of the keys” we read about in today’s passage foreshadows the much more important promise Jesus would make to Peter about the “keys of the Kingdom of heaven.”

R – A proclamation from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord to Shebna, master of the palace: “I will thrust you from your office and pull you down from your station. On that day I will summon my servant Eliakim, son of Hilkiyah; I will clothe him with your robe, and gird him with your sash, and give over to him your authority. He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah. I will place the key of the House of David on Eliakim’s shoulder. When he opens, no one shall shut, when he shuts, no one shall open. I will fix him like a peg in a sure spot, to be a place of honor for his family.”

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

Responsorial Psalm Ps 138

R – *Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands!*

R. M. Velez



* **I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with all my heart, for you have heard the words of my mouth; in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise; I will worship at your holy temple.** **R.**

* **I will give thanks to your name, because of your kindness and your truth: when I called, you answered me; you built up strength within me.** **R.**

* **The Lord is exalted, yet the lowly he sees, and the proud he knows from afar. Your kindness, O Lord, endures forever; forsake not the work of your hands.** **R.**

2nd Reading Rom 11:33-36

After having reflected on God’s universal saving love, the apostle Paul bursts into this beautiful hymn of praise we should learn to make our own.

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

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord or who has been his counselor? Or who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid? For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen!

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

Gospel Acclamation Mt 16:18

All – Alleluia! Alleluia!
You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 16:13-20

Simon Peter’s declaration that Jesus is the promised Messiah and the Son of the Living God gives Jesus the opportunity to reveal his plan about the Church and Peter’s unique leading role in it. Today’s passage is the foundation of our belief that the Church is the new “People of God” which will endure until the end of time under the stewardship of Peter’s successors.

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!

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter said in reply, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus said to him in reply, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

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 –In today’s Gospel we are reminded about the enduring character of the Church, and her having to withstand the relentless attacks of “the powers of hell.” As children of the Church, let us address to the Lord our prayer for her needs as God’s family on earth. Let us pray together:

All –Lord, hear our prayer!

C –For the Church, the new People of God: May she persevere in her faithfulness to her Founder, even as he watches over her with loving concern and power. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For the Holy Father, the successor of Peter as the supreme shepherd of the Church: May he constantly experience the guidance of the Lord and his protection against the forces of evil. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For our Bishop, our parish priest, and all other leaders of the Church: May they guide God’s flock in exemplary faithfulness to the Divine Leader so as to offer us inspiration and encouragement. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For our civil leaders and all other people in authority: May they constantly promote the good of the people through the enactment and enforcement of just laws. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For the youth of the world, especially those who live in material or moral misery: May they find in the Church their trusted guide and the promoter of their integral welfare. 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 having called us to be part of the Church you established on the solid rock of Peter’s faith. Preserve us in your service until we are gathered with the rest of your people in the glory of heaven to praise and worship you 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 –O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by adoption through the one sacrifice offered once for all, bestow graciously on us, we pray, the gifts of unity and peace in your Church.

Through Christ our Lord.

All –Amen!

Preface VII

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 you so loved the world that in your mercy you sent us the Redeemer, to live like us in all things but sin, so that you might love in us what you loved in your Son, by whose obedience we have been restored to those gifts of yours that, by sinning, we had lost in disobedience.

And so, Lord, with all the Angels and Saints, we, too, give you thanks, as in exultation 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 –Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.



All –Our Father . . .

P –Deliver us, Lord . . .

All –For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All –Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. (2x)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

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.)

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

Prayer after Communion

P –Complete within us, O Lord, we pray, the healing work of your mercy and graciously perfect and sustain us, so that in all things we may please you.

Through Christ our Lord.

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 kindness, make your faith as

strong as the faith of Peter.
All –**Amen!**

P –May He make you loyal children of the Church and faithful followers of the Holy Father.

All –**Amen!**

P –May He console you in all your afflictions and make

you instruments of His love.
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!**

CHOSEN TO BE A SOLID ROCK

Simon did nothing special to attract Jesus’ attention and deserve “preferential treatment.” He only put his fishing boat at the disposal of the Master, and accepted to carry out Jesus’ questionable instruction to cast the nets again when the sun was already high on the horizon – a most unlikely hour for a good catch. (See Lk 5:4f.) **Yet Jesus loved him with a special love.** There were reasons for that . . .

Simon was a simple, unschooled fisherman. He was well aware of all his limitations and moral failures. (See Lk 5:8.) But when the crucial moment came to express his opinion on Jesus, **he showed a unique perceptiveness** which outshone all others. He had no doubt: **Jesus was “the Messiah, the Son of the living God”** (Mt 16:16).

The learned and the clever had formed their opinion about the Christ from what they had studied or heard or seen with their material eyes. Their answers could only be conjectural. They were all inadequate. But Simon’s deep conviction – his faith – was rooted in another kind of knowledge: divine revelation. **It was God Himself who had implanted that certitude in him.** Hence, Jesus’ reaction: “Blest are you, Simon! . . . No mere man has revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father” (Mt 16:17).

This fisherman from Bethsaida was the object of the Father’s special love. God knew him through and through: his weakness as well as his generosity and sincerity. God had plans for him. He who put the right answer on his lips, would still enlighten him, time and time again, whenever needed for the good of His Church.

Peter would outlive his Master only by thirty years, but **the mission of being “rock” and steersman would outlive the fisherman from Galilee and would last till the end of time.** It would live on in his successors, regardless of their personal worth, century after century. Peter’s role would be fulfilled by others, called by different given names, but **always bearing the same root name of “Peter/Rock.”** On each of them, as on the fisherman from Bethsaida Jesus has

been conferring his authority to bind and loose, and the strength and wisdom needed to steer the fragile but unsinkable boat of the Church. Ever assailed by hell’s fury, **this Church is ever victorious over storms and reefs, as it is steered by the God-steadied hand of Peter’s successors.**

As members of the Catholic Church – the Church established by Jesus Christ, and by him entrusted to the visible stewardship of Peter and his successors – we should, first of all, feel grateful to the Lord for having given us a visible leader who guides us with the authority and power received from Christ. This is no small advantage, in the cacophony of so many discordant voices which create uncertainty and confusion, **all that we have to do is to listen to the voice of Peter’s successor and act on it, knowing that the Lord constantly guides the Pope and preserves him from committing errors in matters of faith and morals.**

In the light of this premise, it is sadly surprising to meet self-styled Catholics who dare to take positions in the doctrinal or moral fields that are not in agreement with the teaching of the Holy Father. **A real Catholic has to be a loyal follower of the supreme Shepherd assigned by Jesus Christ.** This may not be so easy, sometimes. But when all is said and done, we have to remember that **it was to Peter (and not to individual believers) that Jesus said, “To you (thee!) I will give the keys of the Kingdom of heaven.** Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” (Mt 16:19)

Nor should we reduce our duties toward **the Pope** to loyalty and obedience. He **is our spiritual Father, our “Gentle Christ on earth,”** as St. Catherine of Siena called him. As such, **we must love him affectionately and sincerely.** And we must, likewise, pray for him, as we pray for the people most dear to us. So heavy a burden has been placed on his shoulders. He needs all the help he can get, and prayer is the most effective help when offered with living faith and a loving heart.



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