

21 January 2018 FEAST OF THE STO. NIÑO Year B

## “LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME”

Today we are fortunate to celebrate, once again, the Feast of the Sto. Niño. This devotion, which has its roots in the beginning of the Christianization of our country, is also one of the main features of our popular religiosity.

If our devotion to the Sto. Niño is genuine, it must not stop at placing his image in our family altar, or carrying it wherever we go. Our devotion to the Child Jesus must find its

practical manifestation in our concern for the total welfare of the millions of children throughout the world and especially for those who are victimized in so many ways.

Jesus loved children and showed his love and esteem for them in very practical ways, as we learn from today's Gospel passage. In this Eucharist let us renew our commitment 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 loves the children and youth with purest love. 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!**



**1st Reading** *Is 9:1-6*  
*The oracle we are about to hear proclaimed is a prophecy about Jesus 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 shoul-

der 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** –*The Lord is King; let the many isles be glad!*

*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*

**All–Alleluia! Alleluia!**  
The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.  
**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Gospel** *Mk 10:13-16*

*Jesus had a love of predilection for children because he saw in them the perfect candidates for the Kingdom. In today's episode we have the famous sentence, "Let the children come to me."*

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

**All–Glory to you, O Lord!**

People were bringing their little children to Jesus that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them: "Let the children come to me. Do not prevent them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Then

he embraced the children and blessed them, placing his hands on them.

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, and are reminded of Jesus' special love for the young, let us turn our attention to our children and youth, and pray for all their needs, saying:

**All—Lord, graciously hear our prayer!**

**C** —For the whole Church and its leaders: May they ever more show appreciation for children and the youth, and thereby become an inspiration to the whole world. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** —For all children throughout the world: May they be loved tenderly, respected and looked upon as the hope of a better humanity. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** —For the children yet unborn: May they be accepted by their parents as precious gifts and signs of trust from the Creator. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** —For the youth of our nation: May they grow in dedication, honesty and purity, treasuring and practising authentic Filipino values. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** —For all Catholic parents: May they care for their children as Mary and Joseph cared for Jesus and form them as upright citizens and zealous members of the Church. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** —For all the devotees of the Sto. Niño: May their devotion to the infant Jesus be a continuous inspiration for them 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 God, grant us a practical concern for the children and the youth of today. May we work for their welfare and protection for love of Your Son, who lives and reigns 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. Blessed 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 children and youth of our country.**  
**All—Amen!**  
**P —May He reward your efforts with eternal life.**  
**All—Amen!**

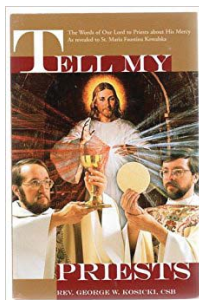
**P —May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**  
**All—Amen!**  
**P —Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.**  
**All—Thanks be to God!**



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