



2 September 2018

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

BEGINNING OF NATIONAL CATECHETICAL MONTH

Let Us Live By God's Law

Since the time Adam and Eve committed their first grave sin, the human heart has remained exposed to the devastation of violent passions which lead to acts that destroy individuals and societies. In the Commandments, God has supplied us with a powerful defense line that protects us from the violence of these destructive passions and enables us to live a life of harmony, cooperation and fulfillment. Our task is to take God's commandments seriously and make them the foundation of our moral life.

In this Eucharistic celebration, let us pray in a special manner for the grace to appreciate God's Law and to live by it not only as individuals but also as a community and as a nation.

September is National Catechetical Month. Let us pray for all catechists and those whom they teach the faith.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

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

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

Greeting

P –Blessed be Jesus, the perfect model of our moral life. 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 reflect on what makes us unworthy to do so. *(Pause)*

P –Lord Jesus, you came not to abolish God's Law but to fulfill it. Lord, have mercy!
All –**Lord, have mercy!**

P –Lord Jesus, you uphold the superiority of God's Commandments over human traditions and rules. Christ, have mercy!

All –**Christ, have mercy!**

P –Lord Jesus, you remind us that sin comes from following the evil passions that nest in our hearts. 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 Be-

gotten 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 –God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, you may nurture in us what is good and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured.

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 *Dt 4:1-2,6-8*
Putting God's law into practice and refraining from manipulating it are the clearest signs of our respect for it. Such is the message conveyed by Moses to the people of Israel more than three thousand years ago and to us today.

R –A proclamation from the Book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: “Now, Israel, hear the statutes and decrees which I am teaching you to observe, that you may live, and may enter in and take possession of the land which the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you. In your observance of the commandments of the Lord, your God, which I enjoin upon you, you shall not add to what I command you, nor subtract from it.

Observe them carefully, for thus will you give evidence of your wisdom and intelligence to the nations, who will hear of all these statutes and say, ‘This great nation is truly a wise and intelligent people.’ For what great nation is there that has gods so close to it as the Lord, our God, is to us whenever we call upon him? Or what great nation has statutes and decrees that are as just as this whole law which I am setting before you today?”

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

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 15*

R –*The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord!*

R. M. Velez



The one who does justice will live in the



presence of the Lord!

* **Whoever walks blamelessly and does justice; who thinks the truth in his heart and slanders not with his tongue.** **R.**

* **Who harms not his fellow man, nor takes up a reproach against his neighbor; by whom the reprobate is despised, while he honors those who fear the Lord.** **R.**

* **Who lends not his money at usury and accepts no bribe against the innocent. Whoever does these things shall never be disturbed.** **R.**

2nd Reading *Jas 1:17-18, 21-22,27*

In this passage, the apostle James lays great emphasis on the need that our faith manifest itself in concrete actions of Christian love.

R –A proclamation from the Letter of James

Dearest brothers and sisters: All good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no alteration or shadow caused by change. He willed to give us birth by the word of truth, that we may be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls. Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves. Religion that is pure and undefiled before our God and Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

Gospel Acclamation

All—Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Father willed to give us birth by the word of truth, that we may be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel *Mk 7:1-8,14-15,21-23*
In today's passage Jesus attacks the scribes and Pharisees

who gave greater importance to legal subtleties rather than the essence of God's law, which is love and mercy.

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!

When the Pharisees with some scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they observed that some of his disciples ate their meals with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands.

The Pharisees and, in fact, all Jews, do not eat without carefully washing their hands, keeping the tradition of the elders. And on coming from the marketplace they do not eat without purifying themselves. And there are many other things that they have traditionally observed, such as the purification of cups and jugs and kettles and beds.

So the Pharisees and scribes questioned Jesus, “Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?” He responded, “Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, hypocrites, as it is written:

“This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. In vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts.”

You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition.”

Jesus summoned the crowd again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person, but the things that come out from within are what defile. From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile.”

The Gospel of the Lord!
All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

Profession of Faith

(Nicene-Constantinopolitan 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 —Today the Gospel reminds us of the great importance of cultivating the right moral dispositions and of obeying God's law. Full of confidence in His love for us, we pray:

All—**Source of all holiness, hear us!**

C —For the Church and her leaders, that they may always keep their priorities right, without being swayed by passing fads or rampant moral decadence, let us pray! **R.**

C —For all parents, that they may teach their children through

word and good example, and that their behavior may always be guided by God's law, let us pray! **R.**

C —For all Religion teachers, that they may lead their students to appreciate the Gospel values and motivate them to live according to those values, let us pray! **R.**

C —For the youth all over the world, especially in our country, that they may reject whatever is degrading and unworthy of man, and practise what ennobles them, let us pray! **R.**

C —For all of us, that we may keep our hearts free from all evil thoughts and desires, let us pray! **R.**

C —For all those involved in the catechetical ministry, that they may be supported by their community in their important mission of teaching the faith, let us pray! **R.**

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

P —Lord God, You sent Your Son to remind us of the need to have the right priorities in life. Grant us the grace to know what is right, do what is good and persevere in Your service till the end of our life.

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 —May this sacred offering, O Lord, confer on us always the blessing of salvation, that what it celebrates in mystery it may accomplish in power.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—**Amen!**

Preface 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 out of compassion for the waywardness that is ours, he humbled himself and was born of the Virgin; by the passion of the Cross, he freed us from unending death, and by rising from the dead, he gave us life eternal.

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—**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, 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 —This is Jesus, 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.)

**How great is the goodness,
Lord, that you keep for those
who fear you.**

Prayer after Communion

P –Renewed by this bread from
the heavenly table, we beseech
you, Lord, that, being the food
of charity, it may confirm our
hearts and stir us to serve you in
our neighbor.

Through 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 the peace of God
which is beyond all under-
standing keep your hearts

and minds in the knowl-
edge and love that opens
the door of eternal 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!

Should We Follow Traditions?

by Jess P. Balon

Traditions and social conventions are part and parcel of our life. They are signs of our links with the past and our dependence on it. Such **traditions and conventions can be a precious heritage that enriches us in many ways.** They embody the customs and ways of life that are *fruit of the wisdom of past centuries*, and are handed over from one generation to another as a sort of “cultural gift.” As such, they *may contain genuine values* which deserve to be preserved and assimilated by all.

But certain conventions and traditions (not sacred Tradition, with capital “T”), **may contain also elements that are no longer relevant to present situations and aspirations.** In other cases, traditions may become a hindrance to creativity and to the desire to find new ways of viewing and doing things. **Exclusive attachment to traditions may prevent progress.** This is so because they are always in danger of becoming either lifeless relics of the past, or enslaving *chains*.

They become “lifeless relics” when they are reduced to empty formalities because they have lost the original values which used to make them rich and meaningful.

Certain religious traditions may also become heavy chains that fetter us to the past, dampening or preventing altogether the vital thrust toward new and genuine ways of relating to God and among ourselves. Under their negative influence, we may come to forget, as it happened to the Jews at the time of Jesus, that “the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath” (Mk 2:27). Worse still, **some traditions may become idols when we put them at par with, or even above, the positive manifestation of God’s will.**

An opposite defect is the forsaking of time-honored traditions in order to start following new ways of life that look more appealing or “fashionable.” **We are constantly in danger of dropping value-laden traditions in order to follow the latest fads and innovations propagated by the surrounding environment.** The Israelites had committed such a mistake more than once and long

before the time of Christ, when they “forgot” their Lord-Savior and adopted ways of life typical of the neighboring peoples who “knew nothing of the Lord.” Thus, they abandoned the “Source of living water” and dug for themselves “broken cisterns that hold no water.” (See Jer 2:13.)

Against such danger there is only one remedy: to cling to the freshness of God’s Word and the living Tradition of the Church, kept alive by the perennial vitality of the Holy Spirit. Our lives should be molded only by the sound instruction coming from God’s commandments, and the teaching and example of Christ coming to us through the Church. **Sound discernment is always needed.** Mere human traditions and conventions can be followed only *if and to the extent* that they are in keeping with the positive revelation of the divine will, and remain open to the continuous call of God to be ever new, ever greater, ever closer to Him who is both the root and the future of man.

**A reminder:
September is “Catechetical Month.”**

**Be aware of the importance and need
of catechesis, especially for our children
and youth.**



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