



23 September 2018

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

NATIONAL LAITY WEEK

LET THE FIRST BE THE SERVANT OF ALL

The aspiration to achieve excellent results and to do ever better is the instinctive drive that is the source of mankind's progress. But in our fallen nature, the desire to do better is often nurtured by pride – the pride that brings us to trample on other in the eagerness to succeed. This is not what Jesus taught us. On this Sunday we are invited to overcome that pride with humble and generous service.

In the Gospel, Jesus challenges his disciples and us to be the servant of all. That is the most practical and effective way to counteract the devastating consequences of “the passions that make war within our members” (see today's Second Reading.)

In this Eucharist, let us ask the Lord to grant us the grace to be able to serve out of love and with love. And on this last week of National Catechetical Month, let us pray for all catechists so that they may not only teach but also live the faith.

As we celebrate “National Laity Week” on September 22 -29, we commend to the Lord all lay Catholics so that they may actively spread the Gospel through their words and their deeds.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

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

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

Greeting

P –Blessed be Jesus, the Servant of the Father and of all mankind. May his grace and peace be with you all!

All–And with your spirit!

Penitential Act

P –As we prepare ourselves to celebrate the Sacred Mysteries, let us reflect on what makes us unworthy to do so. *(Pause)*

P –You came to call sinners

to conversion. Lord, have mercy!

All–Lord, have mercy!

P –You gave your life for the salvation of the world. Christ, have mercy!

All–Christ, have mercy!

P –You plead for us at the right hand of the Father. 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 founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbor, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life.

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!

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 –Trusting in God’s loving kindness toward those who seek refuge in Him, let us humbly present our petitions in behalf of all those in need. Let us all say:

All–**Source of all consolation, hear us!**

C –For the Catholic communities which are discriminated against or persecuted: May the hope of the eternal reward be their source of strength. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For the Holy Father and the other leaders of the Church: May they treasure humility and a spirit of service in imitation of Jesus, the Servant of all. Let us pray!**R.**

C –For our catechists and all those involved in the catechetical ministry: May they see rewarded with success their efforts to form the young generation according to the teaching of Jesus. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For the lay members of the Church: May they be aware of their dignity and fulfill their duty to be builders of the kingdom in our society. Let us pray!**R.**

C –For all those who take care of abandoned children, the handicapped, and drug addicts: May they persevere in their good

work of serving Christ in their less fortunate brethren. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all of us: May we discard the jealousy, greed, and selfishness that divide us, and replace them with kindness, generosity, and concern for others. Let us pray! **R.**

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

Let us pray! **R.**

P –Lord Jesus, grant us a spirit of humility and service that we may become instruments of your love to all our brothers and sisters, especially those who are suffering. You who suffered and still care 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 –Receive with favor, O Lord, we pray, the offerings of your people, that what they profess with devotion and faith may be theirs through these heavenly mysteries.

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 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 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 the Lord Jesus, the Just One who endured persecution and death for our sake. He is 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.*)

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

Prayer after Communion

P – Graciously raise up, O Lord, those you renew with this Sacrament, that we may come to possess your redemption both in mystery and in the manner of our life. 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 almighty God keep you from all harm and enrich you with every good gift.
All – Amen!

P – May you walk in His ways, always doing what is right and good, until you enter your heavenly inheritance.
All – Amen!

P – May He give you strength to endure all trials and make

you compassionate toward those who suffer.

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 in your neighbor.

All – Thanks be to God!



Jesus, the Ideal Servant Leader

The aspiration to rise above others is deeply rooted in the heart of man. Its source is usually pride, and the devil often succeeds in fanning it into arrogance, ruthlessness, and oppressiveness.

The members of Jesus' core group (the apostles) were no exception to this sinful inclination. Part of today's Gospel and similar passages (see *Mk 9:34, Mt 20:20-24 and Lk 22:24*) reveal to us this aspect of their weak nature, which was riddled, like ours, with earthly ambitions, pettiness, and envy.

Jesus helped them grow out of their craving for power and authority through his example and his patient exhortations. (Aside from v. 35 in today's passage, see also *Jn 13:3-5.12-17*.) All of them, except Judas, gradually assimilated his teaching and eventually became living examples of humility to their communities by the way they exercised leadership.

By declaring that he had "come to serve, not to be served" (Mt 20:28), Jesus launched the "Servanthood Movement" as the new way of being leaders in a community. The new "movement," which began with him has a motto: **"I'll be a servant!" Service done with love and out of love should be the characterizing trait of the disciples of the "Servant of the Lord and of all men."** This dynamic orientation is rooted in humility and nourished with generosity and love.

It is for us Christians to prove that this is not just a nice theory, or utopic aspiration. We have to show in practice that **to be ready to serve is not to be servile.** Humble service is not the inescapable lot of idiots and of those who are not gifted with leadership qualities. Christian service is, actually, for those who have guts and qualities. It is for those who aspire to be great in the Kingdom of God. As Jesus taught

us, **humble service is the sign of genuine, lasting greatness.**

All of these will not be without a *price*. The devil, the father of all pride and arrogance, cannot tolerate the challenge of sincere humility. He could not tolerate it in Jesus and he attacked him. He attacked the "Servant of the Lord" in the desert, but was defeated. (See *Lk 4:13*.) He dealt his last attack at Gethsemane and on Calvary, and there, too, he was defeated by Jesus, for **it was on the cross that the Servant accomplished his mission of service in behalf of all.** (See *Mt 20:28*.) The devil, routed by Jesus, now tries to take revenge on us. It won't be an easy battle for us.

But **if we fight with Christ, we shall also win with him**, for the Lord will not leave without a *prize* the efforts exerted in being a servant like Jesus. For him, that prize is called *Resurrection and Ascension* (see *Heb 12:2*); for us, it will be the possibility of entering *heaven*, the homeland of the Saints, God's humble servants.



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