



# EUCHALETTE

20 January 2019

FEAST OF THE STO. NIÑO

Year C

## WE LOVE JESUS IN THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF TODAY

**T**oday 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 but 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 problems they encounter and the hopes they raise.

Today, and especially the Eucharistic celebration we are about to start, are renewed opportunities for us to entrust our “niños” and “binata” to the protection and guidance of the Holy Child. He, who is so much a part of our history and our lives, will surely take care of our children and youth 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 finds himself at home in the house of the Father. 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 and 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

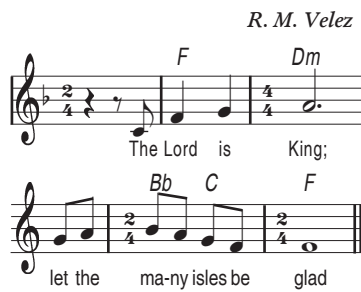
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, as they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as people make merry when dividing spoils. For the yoke that burdened them, the 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 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** –*The Lord is King; let the many isles be glad!*



\* 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 joyfully 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 Lk 2:41-52**  
*The Holy Family of Nazareth was deeply devout and followed carefully the religious observances of the people of Israel. Such is the impression we derive from today's Gospel passage which is known as the "the Finding of Jesus in the Temple."*

**P** –A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
**All–Glory to you, O Lord!**

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him.

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers.

When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his

mother said to him, “Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.” And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand what he said to them.

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

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 —**As we honor the Sto. Niño, and are reminded of Jesus – the role model in the life of the young – let us turn our attention to our children and youth and pray for all their needs, saying:

**All—Lord, hear our prayer!**

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

**C —**That the children and youth of our nation may grow in dedication, honesty, and purity, treasuring and practising authentic Filipino values, let us pray! **R.**

**C —**That all the devotees of the Sto. Niño may be inspired by Jesus to grow in love of God and neighbor, let us pray! **R.**

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

**C —** That all Catholic parents may 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 —** That all of us, like the child Jesus in today’s Gospel, may grow in our faith by learning the Word of God and applying its message in our life, let us pray! **R.**

**C —**Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions. **R.**

*(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 welfare and protection for love of you who live and reign for ever and ever.

**All—Amen!**

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



### 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 the 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!

### COMMUNION RITE



**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 model of our children and youth. 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.)*

**“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!

### 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 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, glorifying the Lord by your life.

**All**–Thanks be to God!

## GROWING WISER UNDER GOD'S CARE

The news must have spread like fire in a forest of pine trees: there was in the Temple, a wonder boy who kept amazing the teachers of the Law not only with his answers, but also with his questions.

The audience of “experts” had been increasing steadily. By the third day, it had swollen to a sizable crowd of Scripture scholars all wondering at what the boy from Nazareth was saying and the questions he was asking.

No doubt, the child knew the Scriptures in all their details and nuances. He knew their “message,” the “substance” of it all. His words were deep insights into events and statements. And he was just a child of twelve, coming from a remote village in the countryside! The great teachers just did not know what to make of it . . .

But Jesus was not just a “wonder boy.” He was, above all, a “**wonder-faithful boy.**” He had gone to Jerusalem with Mary and Joseph for the Passover and the fulfillment of all the duties connected with that feast. That showed that he appreciated and was actively involved in keeping *the religious traditions and observances of his people, just as he was at home with the Scriptures.* He had been taught to value those traditions, and felt that they were part of his life.

One can only wish that our children and youth were more like him as he progressed in knowledge and maturity with the passing of the years. Jesus had grown in his appreciation of the precious traditions of his people. He knew them thoroughly, and lived them out with the enthusiasm that characterizes this age. This is what our children and pre-adolescents would need to know and do today.

Most of them are bright. Some are exceptionally bright. They are very familiar with the names traits and achievements of movie and TV personalities, sports champions, war heroes . . . Yet, when it comes to religious knowledge, many hardly know more than what they learned in their babyhood. When it comes to our liturgical celebrations, many of them show coldness and boredom. When it comes to taking some commitment in their parish or religious association, they become over-cautious and unreliable . . .

The Feast of the Sto. Niño should offer them an opportunity to reflect on why things are so. Many parents and educators, likewise, should ask themselves at what point they went wrong in the religious formation of their children, and how the situation can be remedied in order to see our youth “progress steadily in wisdom and grace, before God and men” as Jesus did. *(See Lk 2:52.)*



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