



During last year's ECQ, a couple of my brother Jesuits went out (for essential travel). Along one of the highways, they saw several people sitting on the streets, begging. Even if the thought of being exposed to CoVid-19 was at the back of their minds, they stopped the car, went down, shared the sandwiches they had, and gave money to some of the beggars. The people thanked them profusely. One of those who received money even remarked: "*pambili ko na ito ng bigas.*" When I asked one of my brothers what was going on in his head during that time, he said that he could not just turn a blind eye to what he saw. He could not refuse them.

Friends, today's Gospel features two people who fall at the feet of Jesus and beg him. Jairus pleads for his daughter's life while the hemorrhaging woman begs for her own. By their standards, both these persons are ritually impure. The hemorrhaging woman fears when Jesus calls for her because she may have made Jesus ritually impure. Not only that, she is in the middle of the crowd and may have exposed

CONTAGIOUS *Compassion*



by Ed Colmenares, SJ

others to her ritual impurity. How does Jesus respond to the woman's fear and trembling? He comforts her and assures her. He gives her his peace and commands the curing of her affliction – of her guilt and fear thinking she has infected others.

As for Jairus, Jesus gives him a similar assurance. He tells him not to be afraid but to have faith. This phrase often signals that something miraculous is

about to happen. I imagine that Jesus assures Jairus that he is not bothering the Lord nor is he asking him to do something ridiculous. I guess that is why Jesus dismisses the servant and the weeping people at Jairus' house – all of whom are convinced that the daughter is dead. Then, with just a few people in the room with the corpse, the miracle happens. Jesus touches the dead girl and brings her back to life.

Jesus responds with compassion to those who begs for a second chance at life or a better life. Jesus does not bother thinking that impurity is contagious. What is more contagious is the Lord's compassion and healing touch.

Friends, our Lord reminds us of how we ought to respond to someone in need. When one begs for one's life or the life of another, the response needs to be helpful, compassionate, and concrete. Sure, we still have valid concerns for our own health during this time of pandemic. But let that not be a way for us to respond with indifference, disgust, or violence for our brethren in need.

PASTORAL CATECHESIS FOR THE YEAR OF *MISSIO AD GENTES*

Exploring Three Faces of Evangelization

Fr. James H. Kroeger, MM

During this CBCP-declared "Year of Mission" (2021), we can profit from a fuller appreciation of a comprehensive understanding of the Church's mission of evangelization; we draw upon John Paul II's *Redemptoris Missio* (no. 33). **First**, *missio ad gentes* is directed to "peoples, groups, and socio-cultural contexts in which Christ and his Gospel are not known, or which lack Christian communities sufficiently mature to be able to incarnate the faith in their own environment and proclaim it to other groups."

Second, "there are Christian communities with adequate and solid ecclesial structures. They are fervent in their faith

and in Christian living. They bear witness to the Gospel in their surroundings and have a sense of commitment to the universal mission." This dimension of evangelization focuses on the *pastoral care of the faithful*.

Third, there is "an intermediate situation, particularly in countries with ancient Christian roots, and occasionally in the younger Churches as well, where entire groups of the baptized have lost a living sense of the faith, or even no longer consider themselves members of the Church, and live a life far removed from Christ and his Gospel." This requires a new evangelization or a re-evangelization." Questions: Where would you place the Philippines? Are elements of all three aspects found here? What is required of you personally as a disciple of Christ?

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon (Ps 47 (46):2)
(Recited when there is no opening song.)

All peoples, clap your hands.
Cry to God with shouts of joy!

Greeting

(The sign of the cross is made here.)

P — The Lord be with you.
All — And with your spirit.

Introduction

(These [or similar words] may be used to address the assembly.)

P — “God did not make death, nor does he rejoice in the destruction of the living.” The Book of Wisdom proclaims God as Lord of life. And in the Gospel, Jesus confirms that God does not intend men and women for corruption. Sent by God to conquer death, Jesus heals a woman long afflicted with hemorrhages and brings Jairus’ daughter back to life. In the face of trial and adversity, may we have the daring faith of Jairus and of the woman, confident in Jesus’ power.

Penitential Act

P — Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.
(Pause)

All — I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, *(strike your breast)* through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

P — May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All — Amen.

P — Lord, have mercy.

All — Lord, have mercy.

P — Christ, have mercy.

All — Christ, have mercy.

P — Lord, have mercy.

All — Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

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

P — Let us pray. *(Pause)*

O God, who through the grace of adoption chose us to be the children of light, grant, we pray, that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error but always be seen to stand in the bright light of truth.

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



First Reading

(Wis 1:13–15; 2:23–24) *(Sit)*

God wills life, not death. By the envy of the devil, death entered the world, but this would be undone by faith in Jesus.

A reading from the Book of the Wisdom

GOD did not make death, nor does he rejoice in the destruction of the living. For he fashioned all things that they might have being; and the creatures of the world are wholesome, and there is not a destructive drug among them nor any domain of the netherworld on earth, for justice is undying. For God formed man to be imperishable; the image of his own nature he made him. But by the envy of the devil, death entered the world, and

they who belong to his company experience it.

— The word of the Lord.

All — Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 30)

R — I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

E. C. Marfori



1. I will extol you, O Lord, for you drew me clear/ and did not let my enemies rejoice over me./ O Lord, you brought me up from the netherworld;/ you preserved me from among those going down into the pit. **(R)**

2. Sing praise to the Lord, you his faithful ones,/ and give thanks to his holy name./ For his anger lasts but a moment;/ a lifetime, his good will./ At nightfall, weeping enters in,/ but with the dawn, rejoicing. **(R)**

3. Hear, O Lord, and have pity on me;/ O Lord, be my helper./ You changed my mourning into dancing;/ O Lord, my God, forever will I give you thanks. **(R)**

Second Reading

(2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13–15)

Paul appeals to the Corinthians that since God, in Christ, has been generous with his gift of life, so they too must share their resources with their needy brothers and sisters.

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

BROTHERS AND SISTERS:

As you excel in every respect, in faith, discourse, knowledge, all earnestness, and in the love we have for you, may you excel in this gracious act also.

For you know the gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. Not that others should have relief while you are burdened,

but that as a matter of equality your abundance at the present time should supply their needs, so that their abundance may also supply your needs, that there may be equality. As it is written: "Whoever had much did not have more, and whoever had little did not have less."

— The word of the Lord.

All — Thanks be to God.

Alleluia (Cf. 2 Tm 1:10) (*Stand*)

All — Alleluia, alleluia. Our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed death and brought life to light through the Gospel. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel (Mk 5:21–43)

P — A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

All — Glory to you, O Lord.

WHEN JESUS had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around him, and he stayed close to the sea. One of the synagogue officials, named Jairus, came forward. Seeing him he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him, saying, "My daughter is at the point of death. Please, come lay your hands on her that she may get well and live." He went off with him, and a large crowd followed him and pressed upon him.

There was a woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years. She had suffered greatly at the hands of many doctors and had spent all that she had. Yet she was not helped but only grew worse. She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak. She said, "If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured." Immediately her flow of blood dried up. She felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction. Jesus, aware at once that power had gone out from him, turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who has touched my clothes?" But his disciples said to Jesus, "You see how the crowd is pressing upon you, and yet you ask, 'Who touched me?' " And he looked around to see who had done it. The woman, realizing what had happened

to her, approached in fear and trembling. She fell down before Jesus and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction."

While he was still speaking, people from the synagogue official's house arrived and said, "Your daughter has died; why trouble the teacher any longer?" Disregarding the message that was reported, Jesus said to the synagogue official, "Do not be afraid; just have faith." He did not allow anyone to accompany him inside except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they arrived at the house of the synagogue official, he caught sight of a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. So he went in and said to them, "Why this commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep." And they ridiculed him. Then he put them all out. He took along the child's father and mother and those who were with him and entered the room where the child was. He took the child by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise!" The girl, a child of twelve, arose immediately and walked around. At that they were utterly astounded. He gave strict orders that no one should know this and said that she should be given something to eat.

— The Gospel of the Lord.

All — Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily (*Sit*)

Profession of Faith (*Stand*)

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, (at the words that follow, up to and including and became man, all 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 — Let us pray to the heavenly Father that we may receive healing in mind, body, and soul, and become instruments of healing to one another. Let us pray:

R — Lord of life, hear our prayer.

C — May the Church, the People of God, continue Christ's healing work by caring for all those who are sick, depressed, the abandoned, and the elderly. We pray: (**R**)

C — May doctors and nurses, social workers, and all those who care for the sick, the suffering, the poor, and the oppressed do their job with patience, skill, and mercy. We pray: (**R**)

C — May all who mourn the passing their loved ones be comforted by their faith in the risen Lord who has brought us life that can never be taken away. We pray: (**R**)

C — Let us pray for the urgent concerns of our community and our personal intentions (*pause*). We pray: **(R)**

P — Heavenly Father, listen to our humble petitions. Help us to have more faith in Jesus' healing power, your love for us and for all humanity.

Through Christ our Lord.

All — Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



Presentation of the Gifts (Stand)

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 God, who graciously accomplish the effects of your mysteries, grant, we pray, that the deeds by which we serve you may be worthy of these sacred gifts.

Through Christ our Lord.

All — Amen.

Preface VI of the Sundays in Ordinary Time

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 in you we live and move and have our being, and while in this body we not only experience the daily effects of your care, but even now possess the pledge of life eternal.

For, having received the first fruits of the Spirit, through whom you raised up Jesus from the dead, we hope for an everlasting share in the Paschal Mystery.

And so, with all the Angels, we praise you, as in joyful celebration, we acclaim:

All — Holy, Holy, Holy... (Kneel)



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Acclamation (Stand)

All — Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

All — Our Father...

P — Deliver us, Lord...

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

Invitation to Peace

Invitation to Communion
(Kneel)

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

Cf. Ps 103 (102):1

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name.

Prayer after Communion
(Stand)

P — Let us pray. (*Pause*)

May this divine sacrifice we have offered and received fill us with life, O Lord, we pray,

so that, bound to you in lasting charity, we may bear fruit that lasts forever.

Through Christ our Lord.

All — Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P — The Lord be with you.

All — And with your spirit.

Solemn Blessing

P — Bow down for the blessing.
(*Pause*)

May almighty God bless you in his kindness and pour out saving wisdom upon you.

All — Amen.

P — May he nourish you always with the teachings of the faith and make you persevere in holy deeds.

All — Amen.

P — May he turn your steps towards himself and show you the path of charity and peace.

All — Amen.

P — And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, (†) and the Holy Spirit come upon you and remain with you for ever.

All — Amen.

Dismissal

P — Our celebration is ended. Go in the peace of the Lord.

All — Thanks be to God.