



ST PAULS MEDIA **pastoral ministry**
AMBUHAY
MISSALETTE

FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION, MISSION
SYNOD 2021-2023



Year 36 No. 44

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) — Green

February 19, 2023

Pontifical Work of St. Peter the Apostle (Opus Sancti Petri)



Identity in Christ

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I entered the Jesuit novitiate in 2003. I remember so vividly one of the first conferences delivered by our novice master. He told us that we were then no longer ordinary gentlemen—engineers, accountant, doctor, teachers; we were gentlemen-Jesuit novices. Hence, my primordial memory of the “formation” process in the Jesuit novitiate is vocational identity. That conference stuck with me from that day on, and it stayed with me as I moved further in my Jesuit formation journey.

Dear friends, that particular conference came to the fore as I read and reflected upon the scriptural lections of today’s liturgical celebration. They speak so potently about the importance of solid grounding in our vocational identity as Christians. To me, the readings are both meaningfully beautiful and joltingly challenging.

First, meaningful and

beautiful. The readings narrate to us once more our privileged identity as Christians. In baptism, we are immersed in the life of the Divine; hence, our life is a participation in the very life of God. The words of the Lord to Israel about becoming holy as the Lord is holy are but a reminder to this chosen people of who this God that they worship is—holy; and in the process, they are led to realize that since this God is holy, they, too, should be holy. In the same fashion, St. Paul exhorts his Corinthian community to be grounded once more in who they are—temples of God and dwelling places of the Spirit. Hence, they should live holy lives. Ultimately, Jesus Christ, the fullness of the revelation of God, emphatically challenges his listeners to be true to their identity as believers of God: “So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is

perfect.” The readings relay a beautiful message, indeed!

Second, the readings are joltingly challenging. We know how difficult it is to follow the Holy God that we worship. The message of the liturgical readings sounds so beautiful, yet it is difficult to live by, if we are just serious about it. Perhaps that was the very reason why our novice master centered his first conference with us on the theme of vocational identity. He prodded us that as Jesuit novices, all our actions and decisions had to be scrutinized under the lens of our Jesuit identity. I believe the message of today’s readings is in the same line.

Dear sisters and brothers, let us pray then for the grace to be truly grounded in our vocational identity as Christians. May all that we say and do, the very manner that we live our life, be in accordance with who we are—Christians.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps 13[12]:6)

(Recited when there is no opening song)

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

Greeting

(The sign of the cross is made here)

P—Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

All—And with your spirit.

Introduction

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

P—Jesus tells us today that as God's children we have to imitate his love, which does not limit itself to good people alone. As believers, we are not called to remain passive before evil and injustice around us. May this Eucharist be the source of our inspiration and strength in loving our brothers and sisters.

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)*

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, always pondering spiritual things, we may carry out in both word and deed that which is pleasing to you.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All—Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD



First Reading (Lv 19:1–2, 17–18)
(Sit)

The Lord commanded the Israelites to love their fellow countrymen. Christian love makes no distinction between races, beliefs, and even one's moral standing. Christian love transcends all boundaries.

A reading from the Book of Leviticus

The LORD said to Moses, "Speak to the whole Israelite community and tell them: Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy.

"You shall not bear hatred for your brother or sister in your heart. Though you may have to reprove your fellow citizen, do not incur sin because of him.

Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against any of your people. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD."

—The word of the Lord.

All—Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 103)

R—The Lord is kind and merciful.

Amante



1. Bless the LORD, O my soul;/ and all my being, bless his holy name./ Bless the LORD, O my soul,/ and forget not all his benefits. **(R)**

2. He pardons all your iniquities,/ heals all your ills./ He redeems your life from destruction,/ crowns you with kindness and compassion. **(R)**

3. Merciful and gracious is the LORD,/ slow to anger and abounding in kindness./ Not according to our sins does he deal with us,/ nor does he requite us according to our crimes. **(R)**

4. As far as the east is from the west,/ so far has he put our transgressions from us./ As a father has compassion on his children,/ so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him. **(R)**

Second Reading (1 Cor 3:16–23)

The apostle Paul reminds us that the Holy Spirit dwelling in us makes us God's temple. If we are God's holy dwelling, we ought to respect and love each other.

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

BROTHERS AND SISTERS: Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If

anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for the temple of God, which you are, is holy.

Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you considers himself wise in this age, let him become a fool, so as to become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God, for it is written: *God catches the wise in their own ruses, and again: The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.*

So let no one boast about human beings, for everything belongs to you, Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or the present or the future: all belong to you, and you to Christ, and Christ to God.

—The word of the Lord.
All —Thanks be to God.

Alleluia (1 Jn 2:5) (*Stand*)

All—Alleluia, alleluia. Whoever keeps the word of Christ, the love of God is truly perfected in him. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel (Mt 5:38–48)

P—A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
All—Glory to you, O Lord.

JESUS said to his disciples: "You have heard that it was said, *An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.* But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other one as well. If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand over your cloak as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go for two miles. Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.

"You have heard that it was said, *You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.* But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that

you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what is unusual about that? Do not the pagans do the same? So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect."

—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 Father that he may help us keep Christ's word so that his love may truly be perfected in us as we say:

R—Father, perfect in us your love.

C—Loving Father, empower and guide Pope Francis, bishops, priests, deacons, and the lay, towards unconditional love in every decision we make and action we do. We pray: **(R)**

C—Loving Father, may those who work in the government become faithful channels of your love. We pray: **(R)**

C—Loving Father, may those of us who are currently undergoing great suffering, materially, emotionally, or spiritually, experience the love they need from the people around them. We pray: **(R)**

C—Loving Father, preserve in your love those who are currently struggling in their mental health. We pray: **(R)**

C—Loving Father, embrace into your perfect love our departed loved ones. We pray: **(R)**

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

P—Loving God, perfect in us your love that our lives may always be directed towards your plan of communion and salvation through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All—Amen.



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—As we celebrate your mysteries, O Lord, with the observance that is your due, we humbly ask you, that what we offer to the honor of your majesty may profit us for salvation.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen.

Preface *(Ordinary Time VIII)*

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 when your children were scattered afar by sin, through the Blood of your Son and the power of the Spirit, you gathered them again to yourself, that a people, formed as one by the unity of the Trinity, made the body of Christ and the temple of the Holy Spirit, might, to the praise of your manifold wisdom, be manifest as the Church.

And so, in company with the choirs of Angels, we praise you, and with joy we proclaim:
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. (Kneel)

Acclamation *(Stand)*

All—We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

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.



JOURNEYS OF FAITH *SETTING THE GOLD STANDARD IN PILGRIMAGES*

PILGRIMAGE SCHEDULES

JOURNEYS TO THE LAND OF THE BIBLE (Apr 18 - May 1, 2023)
Egypt-Israel-Jordan with Fr. Jigs Rosalinda

ADRIATIC COAST WITH MEDJUGORJE (Apr 22 - May 5, 2023)
Austria - Slovenia - Bosnia Hercegovina - Croatia - Montenegro
with Fr. Herbie Santos

ICONIC AND RELIGIOUS ITALY (May 6 - 16, 2023)
Italy with Fr. Ricky Montanez A.A.

JOURNEYING TO EUROPE'S MARIAN SHRINES (May 6 - 23, 2023)
Portugal - Spain - France - Switzerland - Italy
with Fr. Bong Tupino

A MARIAN FAITH & FUN JOURNEY (Jun 15 - Jul 2, 2023)
Portugal - Spain - France - Italy
with Fr. Godwin Tatlonghari

CONTACT US FOR FULL DETAILS AND SCHEDULES.

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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

(Jn 11:27)

Lord, I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God, who is coming into this world.

Prayer after Communion

(Stand)

P—Let us pray. *(Pause)*

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we may experience the effects of salvation which is pledged to us by these mysteries.

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 down on you and remain with you for ever.

All—Amen.

Dismissal

P—The Mass is ended. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

All—Thanks be to God.

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