



29 July 2018

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

FIL. MISSION SUNDAY

Signs and Instruments of God's Generosity

Today is Fil. Mission Sunday – a day devoted to remember our brothers and sisters who work in the foreign missions. In response to God's call, they have left our land and their families to proclaim the Gospel in the nations where Christianity is still a tiny minority, or where the local Church still needs the help of new evangelizers.

It is our duty to remember with admiration, sincere love, and practical solidarity all our missionaries – priests, nuns, religious brothers, and lay volunteers. They are expected to be the best showcase of what the Church is all about. Let us pray for them and be generous toward them, for much of the good they can do depends on the generosity with which we reach out to them.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

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

**God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who
dwell in his house; he himself
gives might and strength to his
people.**

Greeting

P –Blessed be Jesus, the missionary of the Father. 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 –Lord Jesus, you accepted with gratitude the offering of the boy who gave you all the food he had. Lord, have mercy!

All –**Lord, have mercy!**

P –Lord Jesus, you used the generosity of that boy to feed a crowd of thousands. Christ, have mercy!

All –**Christ, have mercy!**

P –Lord Jesus, you continue to feed the world through the work of our missionaries. 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, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure.

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 2 Kgs 4:42-44

Elisha's generosity and his firm faith in God's power to work miracles enabled him to feed a crowd of one hundred men. This miracle foreshadows the even greater one performed by Jesus when he fed a crowd of five thousand men with just five loaves and two fish.

R –A proclamation from the Second Book of Kings

A man came from Baalshalishah bringing to Elisha, the man of God, twenty barley loaves made from the first fruits, and fresh grain in the ear. Elisha said, "Give it to the people to eat." But his servant objected, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" Elisha insisted, "Give it to the people to eat. For thus says the Lord, 'They shall eat and there shall be some left over.'"

And when they had eaten, there was some left over, as the Lord had said.

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

Responsorial Psalm Ps 145

R –*The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs!*

R. M. Velez



The hand of the Lord feeds us;



he an-swers all our needs!

* **Let all your works give you thanks, O Lord, and let your faithful ones bless you. Let them discourse of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might.** **R.**

* **The eyes of all look hopefully to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.** **R.**

* **The Lord is just in all his ways and holy in all his works. The Lord is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth.** **R.**

2nd Reading Eph 4:1-6

As disciples of the Lord, we create unity by bearing one another with patience and love. Such is the challenge presented by the apostle Paul to the believers of Ephesus and to us who live in a society characterized by rivalries and fault-finding.

R –A proclamation from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters: I, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace. One body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

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

Gospel Acclamation

All –Alleluia! Alleluia!

A great prophet has risen in our midst. God has visited his people. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 6:1-15

The miraculous feeding of a huge crowd with just a few loaves of bread and two fish far outshines the miracle performed by the prophet Elisha in his time. It also foreshadows the even greater miracle of the Eucharist through which Jesus has been feeding the believers of all generations.

P –The Lord be with you!

All –And with your spirit!

P –A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to John

All –Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus went across the Sea of

Galilee. A large crowd followed him, because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. The Jewish feast of Passover was near.

When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" He said this to test him, because Jesus himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred days' wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little."

One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people recline."

Now there was a great deal of grass in that place. So the men reclined, about five thousand in number. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted.

When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted." So they collected them, and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves that had been more than they could eat.

When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, "This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world." Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone.

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 –The celebration of Fil. Mission Sunday and today’s liturgical readings invite us to share generously with others the blessings the Lord has granted us. Let us ask the good Lord to open our hearts to the needs of our neighbor. And so we pray:

All–**Lord Jesus, hear our prayer!**

C –That the Church may always be attentive to the needs of the poor and take concrete action to improve their conditions, let us pray! *R.*

C –That the Catholics who are rich or hold important positions may use their financial resources and influence to create an attitude of solidarity toward the less gifted and the poor, let us pray! *R.*

C –That all Filipino missionaries: priests, nuns, religious brothers, and lay volunteers may be credible witnesses of the Gospel in the areas where they exercise their apostolate, let us pray! *R.*

C –That all our missionaries who are sick or discouraged may find in God’s grace and our solidarity the strength and consolation they need, let us pray! *R.*

C –That all Filipino Catholics may ever more contribute to the evangelization of the world through their prayers, good example, and active support of all missionaries, let us pray! *R.*

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

P –Lord Jesus, bless the work of our missionaries that they may see the fruit of their labor. Make us sensitive to the needs of our brothers and sisters, and make us instruments of your provident love for them. You who live and reign 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 –Accept, O Lord, we pray, the offerings which we bring from the abundance of your gifts, that through the powerful working of your grace these most sacred mysteries may sanctify our present way of life and lead us to eternal gladness.

Through Christ our Lord.

All–**Amen!**

Preface III

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 we know it belongs to your boundless glory, that you came to the aid of mortal beings with your divinity and even fashioned for us a remedy out of mortality itself, that the cause of our downfall might become the means of our salvation, through Christ our Lord.

Through him the host of Angels adores your majesty and rejoices in your presence for ever. May our voices, we pray, join with theirs in one chorus of exultant praise, as 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 the Lord Jesus who feeds mankind with the Bread of Life. 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.)

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benef-
fits.**

Prayer after Communion

P –We have consumed, O Lord,
this divine Sacrament, the per-
petual memorial of the Passion
of your Son; grant, we pray, that
this gift, which he himself gave
us with love beyond all telling,
may profit us for salvation.

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 Lord God make
you generous toward the
needy and reward your gen-
erosity.

All–Amen!

P –May He strengthen your
faith so that you will perse-
vere in good works.

All–Amen!

P –May He direct your steps
to Himself, and show you
how to walk in charity and
peace.

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 your neighbor as Je-
sus did.

All–Thanks be to God!



THE SMALL GIFT THAT FED THE CROWDS

The vast crowds that kept following Jesus because of the “signs” he had been performing (see *Jn 6:2*) could become a heavy burden if, by meal time, there was no food at hand, nor money to buy it. The suggestion of the Twelve to dismiss them (see *Mt 14:15*) is not particularly impressive, though – under the circumstances – it could also be seen as prudent and rational.

But Jesus’ plan was different. And in a short while the disciples found themselves involved in a prodigal distribution of food. The similar miracle performed by Elisha (see *First Reading*) was a far cry from what these five thousand men – not counting the women and children (see *Mt 14:21*) – experienced by the shore of the Lake of Gennesareth!

One of the decisive factors which made that miracle possible was the generosity of the boy who offered the five barley loaves and the two fish – his “*baon*” for the day. Of course, Jesus did not need such help. Yet, he did accept that simple gift and made it the starting point for an unprec-
edented miracle. Those five loaves of bread and two fish, generously placed at the disposal of Jesus, made all the difference that day.

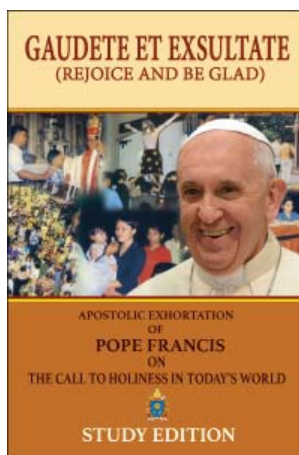
Mankind has been and is periodically tormented by want and famine. Today, the undernourished and the starving have become a huge multitude of some three billion people! The root of this tragedy is not scarcity of resources, but lack of wisdom and generosity. It is not so much a problem of production, as a problem

of distribution and solidarity. More than a problem of “multiplication,” it is a problem of “division” – a problem of lack of sharing. Too many affluent nations give the crumbs, rather than the full loaves.

What the world needs today is to remember that the fruits of God’s blessings are for all. We Christians have a special responsibility in reminding mankind about this truth, and especially in putting it into practice. We are to consider ourselves the descendants of the selfless boy who put his “*baon*” at the disposal of Jesus.

We are challenged to imitate him. If we do imitate him, then miracles will happen everywhere, every day.

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