WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS & REFUGEES NATIONAL SEAFARERS' DAY

Together, To Gather with the Lord!

oday is the Word Day of Migrants and Refugees. It is a day that raises a clarion call for inclusivity, not exclusivity. The liturgy reminds us of the values of acceptance, hospitality, openness, and availability. But it also inspires us to do the moral imperative of sharing whatever riches we have received, instead of holding on to them or hoarding them, until they rot away. The whole Church now directs her loving compassion to all migrants and refugees. As Divine Shepherd, he rouses us all to come together and gather the scattered family of God of whatever creed, race, color, or culture.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

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

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgment, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

Greeting

P – In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

All-Amen!

P -The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

All-And with your spirit!

Penitential Act

P -My brothers and sisters, as we prepare ourselves to celebrate the Sacred Mysteries, let us call to mind our sins, and ask the Lord for pardon and strength. (*Pause*)

P -Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's Kingdom: Lord, have mercy!

All-Lord, have mercy!

P -Lord Jesus, you come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness: Christ, have mercy!

All-Christ, have mercy!

P –Lord Jesus, you will come in glory with salvation for your people: 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!

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Collect (Opening Prayer)

P –O God, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven.

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

1st Reading Nm 11:25-29 God is absolutely free in the distribution of His gifts. Although He sets up "ordinary channels" for their distribution, He also acts outside these "official structures."

R –A reading from the Book of Numbers

The Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to Moses. Taking some of the spirit that was on Moses, the Lord bestowed it on the seventy elders; and as the spirit came to rest on them, they prophesied. Now two men, one named Eldad and the other Medad, were not in the gathering but had been left in the camp. They too had been on the list, but had not gone out to the tent; yet the spirit came to rest on them also, and they prophesied in the camp.

So, when a young man quickly told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp," Joshua, son of Nun, who from his youth had been Moses' aide, said, "Moses, my lord, stop them!" But Moses answered him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets! Would that the Lord might bestow his spirit on them all!"

The Word of the Lord! *All*-Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm

R -The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart!

R. M. Velez

Ps 19





- * The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul; the decree of the Lord is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple. R.
- * The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true, all of them just. R.
- * Though your servant is careful of them, very diligent in keeping them, yet who can detect failings? Cleanse me from my unknown faults! R.
- * From wanton sin especially, restrain your servant; let it not rule over me. Then shall I be blameless and innocent of serious sin. R.

2nd Reading Jas 5:1-6 St. James reminds us today that the blessings we receive in this life are not meant for our selfish enjoyment, but to enable us to do good to those in need. Failure to do so will be judged by God very severely.

R -A reading from the Letter of James

Come now, you rich, weep and wail over your impending miseries. Your wealth has rotted away, your clothes have become moth-eaten, your gold and silver have corroded, and that corrosion will be a testimony against you; it will devour your flesh like a fire.

You have stored up treasure for the last days. Behold, the wages you withheld from the workers who harvested your fields are crying aloud; and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.

You have lived on earth in luxury and pleasure; you have fattened your hearts for the day of slaughter. You have condemned; you have murdered the righteous one; he offers you no resistance.

The Word of the Lord! *All*—**Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation

All-Alleluia! Alleluia!
Your word, O Lord, is truth; consecrate us in the truth.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 9:38-43.45.47-48 Jesus taught his disciples to be broad-minded and generous, for no good will be left unrewarded, no evil will be left unpunished. Such is the message of today's Gospel.

P -The Lord be with you!All-And with your spirit!

P - A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark All-Glory to you, O Lord!

At that time, John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us." Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us.

Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward. Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were put around his neck and he were thrown into the sea.

If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life crippled than with two feet to be thrown into Gehenna. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. Better for you to enter into the

Kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into Gehenna, where 'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.'"

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-Today's readings remind us to live in the light of God's law and to overcome all forms of narrow-mindedness. Aware of our weakness in meeting these demands, we humbly pray:

All-Lord God, be merciful to Your people!

C -That all Christians may always be ready to cooperate with all honest people in promoting whatever is good and constructive, let us pray!

R.

C -That the leaders of our communities may be as open-minded like Moses and Jesus in discerning the work of the Spirit, even outside the "official structures" of the Church, let us pray! R.

C —For all the migrant workers all over the world: May they be treated with respect and justice, and be soon reunited with their families, let us pray! R.

C -That our seafarers and their families may remain faithful to their Christian commitment and preserve the bond of mutual love, in spite of their physical separation, let us pray!

R.

C -That employers and government officials may give what is due to their employees and constituents, let us pray! R.

C -That all of us may realize that the wealth and blessings God gives us are meant not to be hoarded but to be shared, especially with those in need, let us pray!

R.

P -Lord God, teach us to rejoice in the good of others, and to join hands with them in promoting the values of the Kingdom which Your Son came to establish. You who live and care for ever and ever.

All-Amen!

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



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 -Grant us, O merciful God, that our offering may find acceptance with you and that through it the wellspring of all blessing may be laid open before us.

Through Christ our Lord. *All* – **Amen!**

Preface I

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 through his paschal mystery, he accomplished the marvelous deed, by which he has freed us from the yoke of sin and death, summoning us to the glory of being now called a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for your own possession, to proclaim everywhere your mighty works, for you have called us out of darkness into your own wonderful light.

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—We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection 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 who challenges us to reject envy in all its forms. 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

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

Prayer after Communion

P –May this heavenly mystery, O Lord, restore us in mind and body, that we may be coheirs in glory with Christ, to whose suffering we are united whenever we proclaim his Death.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

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 the Lord, in His love, fill you with His wisdom so that you may choose and do what is pleasing to Him

All-Amen!

P -May He give you a magnanimous heart which rejoices in the good that others have or do.

All-Amen!

P -May He grant you the strength that you need to make even great sacrifices to inherit everlasting life.

All-Amen!

P –And may the blessing of almighty God: the Father, and

the Son, and the Holy Spirit descend upon you and remain with you for ever.

All-Amen!

P -Go in peace glorifying the Lord by your life!

All-Thanks be to God!

TOGETHER, TO GATHER WITH THE LORD!

Kalakbay at Katoto

Last week, St. James reminded us that "jealousy and selfish ambition" stand side by side with "disorder and every foul practice." He coaxes us to seek for its antidote, which is "wisdom from above," or holiness of life.

Today's first reading shows us a concrete example of what earthly, worldly wisdom, not the kind that comes "from above," can lead all of us to selfishness, and the unwillingness to share with others whatever good thing we may have in us. Eldad and Medad, two individuals who, in some way, could very well be considered "outsiders," who "had not gone out to the tent," but on whom "the spirit came to rest" all the same, and who "prophesied in the camp," incurred the envy and selfishness of a young man. This young fellow even had the temerity to tell Moses: "Moses my Lord, stop them."

Under the guise of being protective of Moses' prerogative as the chosen prophet and leader, the young man had become too guarded, too jealous, and too restrictive of something that the "spirit of the Lord" has come to give out so generously to people, to "seventy elders," we are told, who

then began to prophesy. Perhaps unwittingly, the selfish young man had in a very real sense resorted to building a protective fence around what he thought ought to have been restricted and guarded so jealously.

The problem, of course, with building fences lies in this: one fences "out," as much as one fences something "in." When one selfishly restricts others, one actually ends up constricting oneself, too, in the process. The expansive and perceptive Moses lost no time in addressing the issue forthrightly: "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets! Would that the Lord might bestow his spirit on them all!"

Moses was zeroing in on what he and the 70 elders were sent to do in the first place: work together, in order to gather people under the sway of the only true God. Inclusivity is the good news that Moses preached. Inclusivity – or universality, if you will, is the great news the prophets were sent for.

We could do a lot less of such selfishness in our society today!



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There seems to be a whole lot of selfishness in what appears, on the surface, to be groups that cater to people's and groups' spirit of unity, belongingness, and camaraderie. Fraternities and sororities all profess the spirit of fraternal camaraderie, sharing and caring between members, for one. Assuredly not bad in itself, one only wonders whether that same spirit of concern could also be extended to others, who, for one reason or another, may be marginalized.

There is a whole lot of fencing in and fencing out in our society . . . sadly, including our Christian communities.

rings loud in today's liturgy. The call is addressed to all of us who all have the tendency to exclude others out. There is a bit of the jealous young man in all of us; a bit of the rich in every one of us; a bit even of the young John who told the Lord in his misguided zeal: "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us." Envy and jealousy, and a lot, too, of what we condescendingly call "politics" takes place in every grouping, every community, including catholic covenanted communities – why, including the Church herself!

The good news is good for me, The call to Christian inclusivity for us men of the cloth, for

us priests and religious - and superiors – as it is good for the ordinary woman or man of the street. This is the good news that pricks our sense of self-complacency. This is the good news that the Lord would like to tell all of us – whether we are in or out of a privileged circle right at this moment. That good news is the good news of inclusivity, the good news that welcomes all. This is the good news of salvation, which is a call for everyone, without exception. What does being Church really mean for us today then? It means being together in the Lord, to gather everyone in His name. "For whoever is not against us, is for us!"

