

LINK — TO — LITURGY



Conversion

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Lessons and Discussions

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“Then they abandoned their nets and followed him.”

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“Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

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Entrance Antiphon – Roman Missal

Should be chanted so that the time of prayer, study and discussion can be made sacred.

INTROIT (Year A & B)*Dominus secus mare**Mt 4: 18, 19*

T HE Lord, walking by the sea of Gal-i-lee, * saw
two brothers, Peter and Andrew, and he called out to
them: Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Source: <http://www.ccwatershed.org/>

Alternate options:Hymns

By All Your Saints Still Striving

Have Mercy, Lord, on Us

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Collect – Roman Missal

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Almighty ever-living God,

direct our actions according to your good pleasure,

that in the name of your beloved Son

we may abound in good works.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

evils, and from everlasting death, by her gracious intercession, in whose commemoration we rejoice. Through the same Christ our Lord, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen.

“The End” Notes

[1] Fernandez, In Conversation with God. 3, 17.1

[2] Ignatius Catholic Study Bible, pg. 66

[3] In Conversation with God. 3, 17.1

[4] Hardon, Modern Catholic Dictionary pg. 131

[5] CCC 1427

[6] John Paul II, Dives in misericordia, 13

[7] Fernandez, In Conversation with God

[8] Navaree Bible, Gospel of Mark pg. 72

[9] John Paul II, Letter, Novo incipiente, 8 April 1979

[10] Fernandez, In Conversation with God 2, 1.1

[11] CCC 1428

[12] John Paul II, Parc des Princes, 1 June 1980

[13] Ignatius Catholic Study Bible, pg. 66

[14] Gabriel, Divine Intimacy vol. I pg. 172

[15] CCC 789

[16] CCC788

[17] CCC 787

[18] Gabriel, Divine Intimacy vol. I pg. 172

[19] *ibid.*

Marian Antiphon – Salve Regina – Simple Tone

IV. ANTIPHON SALVE REGINA, SIMPLE TONE
From First Vespers of the Feast of the Blessed Trinity to None on Saturday
before the First Sunday of Advent.

Ant.
5.

Alve, Re-gi-na, * ma-ter mi-se-ri-córdi-æ : Vi- ta, dulcé-do, et spes nostra,
salve. Ad te clamámus, éxsu-les, fí-li-i Hevæ Ad te suspi-rámus,
gemén-tes et flentes in hac lacrimá-rum valle. E-ia ergo, Advocá-ta
nostra, il-los tu-os mi-se-ri-córdes ócu-los ad nos convér-te. Et Je-sum,
bene-díctum fructum ventris tu-i, nobis post hoc exsí-li-um osténde.
O clemens : O pi-a : O dulcis * Virgo Ma-rí-a.

V. Ora pro nobis, sancta Dei Genitrix.
R. Ut digni efficiamur promissionibus Christi

English Translation

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn, then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us; and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. O almighty and everlasting God, who, by the co-operation of the Holy Ghost, didst prepare the body and soul of Mary, glorious Virgin and Mother, to become the worthy habitation of Thy Son: grant that we may be delivered from present

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Gospel Reading – Mark 1:14-20 – Roman Missal

NOTE: *This Gospel is not found in the Tridentine Lectionary.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
- Glory to you O Lord

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Then they abandoned their nets and followed him. He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Spiritual Reading**From a homily by Saint John Chrysostom, bishop**

For love of Christ, Paul bore every burden

Paul, more than anyone else, has shown us what man really is, and in what our nobility consists, and of what virtue this particular animal is capable. Each day he aimed ever higher; each day he rose up with greater ardor and faced with new eagerness the dangers that threatened him. He summed up his attitude in the words: *I forget what is behind me and push on to what lies ahead.* When he saw death imminent, he bade others share his joy: *Rejoice and be glad with me!* And when danger, injustice and abuse threatened, he said: *I am content with weakness, mistreatment and persecution.* These he called the weapons of righteousness, thus telling us that he derived immense profit from them.

Thus, amid the traps set for him by his enemies, with exultant heart he turned their every attack into a victory for himself; constantly beaten, abused and cursed, he boasted of it as though he were celebrating a triumphal procession and taking trophies home, and offered thanks to God for it all: *Thanks be to God who is always victorious in us!* This is why he was far more eager for the shameful abuse that his zeal in preaching brought upon him than we are for the most pleasing honors, more eager for death than we are for life, for poverty than we are for wealth; he yearned for toil far more than others yearn for rest after toil. The one thing he feared, indeed dreaded, was to offend God; nothing else could sway him. Therefore, the only thing he really wanted was always to please God.

The most important thing of all to him, however, was that he knew himself to be loved by Christ. Enjoying this love, he considered himself happier than anyone else; were he without it, it would be no satisfaction to be the friend of principalities and powers. He preferred to be thus loved and be the least of all, or even to be among the damned, than to be without that love and be among the great and honored.

To be separated from that love was, in his eyes, the greatest and most extraordinary of torments; the pain of that loss would alone have been hell, and endless, unbearable torture.

So too, in being loved by Christ he thought of himself as possessing life, the world, the angels, present and future, the kingdom, the promise and countless blessings. Apart from that love nothing saddened or delighted him; for nothing earthly did he regard as bitter or sweet.

Paul set no store by the things that fill our visible world, any more than a man sets value on the withered grass of the field. As for tyrannical rulers or the people enraged against him, he paid them no more heed than gnats.

Death itself and pain and whatever torments might come were but child's play to him, provided that thereby he might bear some burden for the sake of Christ.

Responsory – Divine Office – 1 Timothy 1:13-14; 1 Corinthians 15:9

God was merciful to me, because in my unbelief I acted in ignorance.

Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful Saviour of the world, we humbly beseech You, by Your most Sacred Heart, that all the sheep who stray out of Your fold may in one day be converted to You, the Shepherd and Bishop of their souls, who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, world without end.

Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Oratory: Place of Prayer – Prayer Before Reconciliation Prayer

To purchase the Oratory: Place of Prayer Book - <http://remnantband.bandcamp.com/merch>

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Come Holy Spirit, give me Your light to see my sins, and give me Your help to be sorry for them. Show me why I sinned. Help me never sin again.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

not leave his disciples orphans. He promised to remain with them until the end of time; he sent them his Spirit. As a result communion with Jesus has become in a way more intense: 'By communicating his Spirit, Christ mystically constitutes as his body those brothers of his who are called together from every nation.'"[16]

What does it mean to be in communion with Jesus? To be in communion with Jesus means to suffer in this world. It is something that we do not want to hear, but it is the truth. Servant of God Fr. Emil Kapaun said, "Out of suffering have emerged the strongest souls". "From the beginning, Jesus associated his disciples with his own life, revealed the mystery of the Kingdom to them, and gave them a share in his mission, joy, and sufferings. Jesus spoke of a still more intimate communion between him and those who would follow him: 'Abide in me, and I in you....I am the vine, and you are the branches.' And he proclaimed a mysterious and real communion between his own body and ours: 'He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.'"[17]

How can we be in communion with Jesus? To be in communion with Christ means that we follow Him. "Henceforth time has only one purpose: to get man, individually and collectively, into step on his journey toward eternity."[18] To be in communion with Jesus also means to convert away from our old way of life and be united with Jesus. "The first condition is conversion, the profound change in our life which requires, above all, a struggle against sin, the denial of everything that makes us deviate from the love and the law of God. This is a conversion like that which God had called for at Ninevah through Jonah and which the Ninevites had carried out for 'they turned from their evil way' (Jon 3:10). But abstaining from sin is only the first phase of the conversion preached by Jesus; a second condition is also required which is clearly expressed in Mark's 'believe in the Gospel.' The Christian must adhere to the Gospel in a positive way with faith made alive by love which is not satisfied with accepting the Gospel only in theory, but translates it into life, and puts it into practice."[19]

Profession of Faith or Popular Devotion – Prayer for the Conversion of Sinners

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

– The abundant grace of our Lord was poured out on me, and gave me the faith and love which are ours through union with Christ Jesus.

I am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God.

– The abundant grace of our Lord was poured out on me, and gave me the faith and love which are ours through union with Christ Jesus.

Immediately Without Hesitation – Lesson and Discussion

“Then they abandoned their nets and followed him”

Jesus calls everyone in this Sunday’s Gospel reading. He then turns His attention to four specific individuals; Peter, Andrew, James, and John. All four men left their work and immediately followed Jesus without any hesitation. “Those fishermen *immediately* left everything in order to follow the Master...We see each one of the Apostles doing the same when Christ seeks him out in his own particular circumstances.”[1]

Why did they follow Jesus? We know from last Sunday that Andrew and Peter had already heard of Jesus. Now Jesus came to them personally and asked them to follow. He came right to them at their job. He then used the simile of being “fishers of men” to help them understand what their new mission would be for the rest of their lives.

VIDEO – Why good leaders make you feel safe – POP CULTURE CONNECTION – 11:55

<http://youtu.be/lmyZMtPVodo>

Many of the things that Simon brings up in this talk reflect why Jesus is the ultimate leader and why we follow the Catholic Church. We follow the Church not because of the Pope but because of Christ who called the first Pope, Peter, and the first Bishops, the Apostles. Peter, Andrew, James, and John were called by Christ to follow Him. They were taught how to be leaders by the perfect leader. Jesus is the epitome of every characteristic that Simon describes as the perfect leader. We feel safe in the Catholic Church not because of anything worldly, but because we know it to be the fullness of truth. We feel safe because we know that God is the one who protects us whenever He calls us. We do not hesitate to follow because Jesus has shown us the way.

Why did Jesus choose these men to follow Him? Jesus chose men who would show the world that the kingdom of God is now for both Jews and Gentiles. He chose everyday working men who were not professionally trained in Scripture or the Law of God. Jesus did this to show that we are all called and can learn and understand God. We can all follow Him as the Apostles did.

What can we learn from the Apostles? We can learn by their actions. There are no words recorded from the four Apostles. The immediate abandonment of all they knew to follow Jesus is

thoughts, be integrated in Him, or, so to speak, ‘Christified’. I wish that with Christ you may come to recognize God as the beginning and end of your existence.”[12]

Communion with Jesus – Lesson and Discussion

“Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

What does “the kingdom of God is at hand” mean? It refers to “God’s sovereign rule over all nations through Jesus. The kingdom of Christ is closely linked with the ancient kingdom of Israel that flourished under David and Solomon. Although David’s empire soon collapsed, for a brief time it foreshadowed the glory of Christ’s reign over the tribes of Israel (2 Sam 5:1-5; Mt. 19:28) and other Gentile nations (1 Kings 4:20-21; Mt 28:18-20). The international kingdom of old is now resurrected and transfigured in the Church, where Christ rules as David’s rightful heir (Mt 1:1; Lk 1:32-33) enthroned in heaven (Mk 16:19; Heb 8:1-2).”[13] “Now the time of promises and of waiting is over; the Messiah has come and is beginning his ministry. It is his presence which gives fullness to the times and makes them a vehicle of God’s mercy and the history of salvation. That is why ‘the kingdom of heaven is at hand;’ so close at hand that the Son of God is among men to teach and open to them the way that leads to it.”[14]

Did Jesus want to build a kingdom? Yes, however it was built in a way that was not expected. Jesus is the king and sought not the princes and Sadducees but fishermen and tax collectors. His kingdom is so close and intimate that we are uniquely and intimately united in communion with Jesus. We associate this communion with Jesus as the Mystical Body of Christ. “The comparison of the Church with the body casts light on the intimate bond between Christ and his Church. Not only is she gathered around him; she is united in him, in his body. Three aspects of the Church as the Body of Christ are to be more specifically noted: the unity of all her members with each other as a result of their union with Christ; Christ as head of the Body; and the Church as bride of Christ.”[15]

[See also Link to Liturgy Lesson - Mystical Body of Christ]

Did Jesus complete His kingdom? Yes and no. He completed His kingdom because He sits at the right hand of the Father, however He still seeks out and wants to gather everyone to Himself. “When his visible presence was taken from them, Jesus did

Can we have more than one conversion? Yes, people can have more than one conversion in their life. In fact, we have a conversion every time we go to confession. Pope Saint John Paul II said, “For us, conversion means seeking God’s pardon and strength in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This is the way to start again and to improve each day.”[9]

What should we do once we have a conversion? Someone who has a conversion understands that it is only the start of something amazing. When we have a conversion we realize that we must continue to grow deeper and deeper in love with our Lord. “To turn our hearts towards God, to be converted, means that we must be prepared to use all the means to live as He expects us to live. We must be absolutely sincere with ourselves. We must try not to serve two masters. We must love God with our whole heart and soul, and flee from any deliberate sin in our lives. Each of us must do this whatever his personal circumstances may be as regards work, health, family, age and so on.”[10]

This continued need for conversion is called the “second conversion” by the Catechism. “Christ’s call to conversion continues to resound in the lives of Christians. The second conversion is an uninterrupted task for the whole Church who, ‘clasping sinners to her bosom, [is] at once holy and always in need of purification, [and] follows constantly the path of penance and renewal.’ This endeavor of conversion is not just a human work. It is the movement of a ‘contrite heart,’ drawn and moved by grace to respond to the merciful love of God who loved us first.”[11]

Why would someone want to have a conversion? We want to have a conversion because we want God. When it is all said and done, our lives boil down to wanting and needing God. The late Pope Saint John Paul II wrote, “Open the gates wide to Christ! Have confidence in Him. Take the risk of following him. Obviously this demands that you should come out of yourselves, or your own way of reasoning, or your prudence. It demands that you leave behind your indifference, your self-sufficiency, those un-Christian habits that you have perhaps acquired. Yes; that demands renunciation, a conversion, which first of all you must want to want; want to pray for in your prayer, and want to put into practice. Let Christ be for you the way, the truth and the life. Let Him be your salvation and your happiness. Let Him take over the whole of your life so that with Him you can live it in all its dimensions. Let all your relationships, activities, feelings,

something that is shocking even today. “Such an abrupt break with family and livelihood was extraordinary then as now. The impulse to abandon everything and follow Jesus highlights the surpassing excellence of Christian discipleship over every worldly pursuit.”[2] They left their work, fathers, families, and homes for Jesus Christ. They did it immediately. There was no hesitation. We also see this with Saint Joseph when God told him to take Mary and go to Egypt. Joseph did not hesitate and went immediately. Peter, Andrew, James, and John show us that when we are personally called by Jesus, we must follow Him.

Why must we not hesitate when being called by God? If we hesitate we can miss out on something amazing. Following Christ is the best thing that we could ever do. Every person that falls in love and follows Christ only complain that they did not do it sooner! When we hesitate to follow Christ, all we do is hurt ourselves.

VIDEO – Hero saves baby not breathing in IGA store – POP CULTURE CONNECTION – 3:45

<http://youtu.be/m1pnVFyaFX4>

This video is of a man who did not hesitate to help. He acted immediately and without question. He did not know these people and yet he wanted to help. Imagine if the man did not step in and help the child. Thankfully he did not hesitate and jumped into action to save this child.

Why do people hesitate to follow Christ? There are many reasons why people hesitate to follow Christ. The biggest reason has to be fear. It could be fear of the road that lies ahead or fear of how much it will cost in order to follow Him.

TV SHOW – Big Bang Theory: Sheldon pats the bird – POP CULTURE CONNECTION – 1:43

<http://youtu.be/uDy4y7mHvIY>

Sheldon has a crippling fear of birds (Ornithophobia). He is very hesitant to pet the bird because of fear. Once he pats the bird he is proud of himself and eventually loves the bird. Often times we are hesitant to follow Christ because of fear. However, we have nothing to be afraid of when following Jesus.

What must we be ready to do if we follow Jesus? We must be ready to let go of everything that could bog us down. The Apostles left everything to follow Jesus and when He calls us we must do the same. We may not be asked to leave our families or our

work, but He will ask us to let go of our sins. “If we are to follow Christ, our soul has to be free from any attachments: from love of self in the first place; from an excessive concern for our health or for the future...from riches and material goods. When the heart is set upon and filled with concern for earthly goods, there is no room in it for God. God will ask of some people an absolute renunciation, so that they can be completely at his disposal. He asked this of the Apostles; He asked it of the rich young man, as He has done of so many men and women throughout the centuries.”[3]

Music – Count the Cost by Fr. Pontifex – POP CULTURE CONNECTION – 3:21

<http://youtu.be/UkcMuU6qerA>

Pay close attention to the second verse. Many say they follow Christ, but just lip service and occasional “head nods” are not enough. We know that when we start down the road of following Christ it ultimately leads to the cross. “Your cross, your call it’s something specific for you to do and without a deep yes and action it’s ‘I never knew you.’...His eyes indeed look for yours and mine, allow him to find you.”

Discussion questions

How can we follow Christ without hesitation?

How can we help others follow Christ immediately?

Conversion – Lesson and Discussion

“Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

Jesus calls for repentance and conversion to all who can hear. He spoke it over 2,000 years ago and still speaks it to us today.

What is a conversion? “Any turning or changing from a state of sin to repentance, from a lax to a fervent way of life, from unbelief to faith, and from a non-Christian religion to Christianity. Since the Second Vatican Council the term is not used to describe a non-Catholic Christian becoming a Catholic. The preferred term is “entering into full communion with the Church.”[4] The word conversion comes from the Latin meaning turning around, turning point, or a change.

As we read in today’s Gospel, conversion is first and foremost a calling by Jesus. “Jesus calls to conversion. This call is an essential part of the proclamation of the kingdom: ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in

the gospel.’ In the Church’s preaching this call is addressed first to those who do not yet know Christ and his Gospel. Also, Baptism is the principal place for the first and fundamental conversion. It is by faith in the Gospel and by Baptism that one renounces evil and gains salvation, that is, the forgiveness of all sins and the gift of new life.”[5]

The Church is a vital part of the proclamation for conversion in today’s world. “Therefore, the Church professes and proclaims conversion. Conversion to God always consists in discovering his mercy, that is, in discovering that love which is patient and kind (cf. 1 Cor 13:4) as only the Creator and Father can be.”[6]

Who can have a conversion? Anyone and everyone can have a conversion. Some of the greatest saints have had the greatest conversions. Most Christians have heard of Saint Augustine who converted to the Christian faith. We can also say that our first pope, Peter, had a great conversion after he sinned by denying Jesus three times then later going back to God seeking forgiveness and receiving mercy.

How does one have a conversion? What does it take to have a conversion? First, one must repent from previous transgressions. “Once again we must want a new conversion – that turning towards God.”[7] We hear in all three readings today about the need for repentance. In the first reading, Jonah goes to Nineveh and calls the people to repent. (cf. Jon 3:1-3, 10). In the second reading, Paul speaks of reading one’s soul for the coming God. In the Gospel reading, Jesus Himself speaks of being ready for the Kingdom of God is at hand. In turn, the Apostles then pass on this message after Jesus ascended into Heaven. “Both John the Baptist and Jesus and his Apostles insist on the need for conversion, the need to change one’s attitude and conduct as a prerequisite for receiving the Kingdom of God.”[8]

The second part of conversion is changing one’s heart *toward* God. It is a moving away from sin and moving towards God. The Apostles were moved towards God and let go of their former ways of life.

Discussion Questions

Discuss a time when you or someone you know had a conversion. What caused the change?

When can someone have a conversion?