

blessed fruit of they 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 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] Handbook of Prayers, pg. 575
- [2] Hardon, Modern Catholic Dictionary, pgs. 69-70
- [3] Hardon, Modern Catholic Dictionary pgs. 354-355
- [4] CCC 849
- [5] Divine Intimacy III, pg. 116
- [6] CCC 850
- [7] CCC 854
- [8] CCC 851
- [9] *ibid.*
- [10] CCC 855
- [11] Fernandez, In Conversation with God 4, 16.2
- [12] CCC 854
- [13] CCC 852
- [14] Fernandez, In Conversation with God 4, 16.1
- [15] CCC 85
- [16] Lumen Gentium 18
- [17] Fernandez, In Conversation with God 4, 16.1
- [18] CCC 88
- [19] CCC 2030
- [20] CCC 2037
- [21] CCC 2037



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The Mission Church 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Lessons and Discussions

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“gave them authority over unclean spirits.”

Introit (Entrance Antiphon) – Roman Missal

This should be chanted so that the time of prayer, study and discussion can be made sacred. Another song can be substituted, but should have the same theme.

INTROIT (Option 1)*Dum clamarem**Ps 55 (54): 17, 18, 19, 20, 23*

III

When I cried out to the Lord, * he heeded my call against my assailants; he who is before the beginning of the world and who endures for-e-ver has humbled them. Cast your cares upon the Lord, and he will sustain you.

Alternate options:

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name (Hymn)

Praise to the Lord (Hymn)

Collect –Roman Missal

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

O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they possess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ

to your word and your love. In difficult moments, sustain their energies, comfort their hearts, and crown their work with spiritual achievements. Let the adorable image of you crucified on the Cross, which accompanies them throughout life, speak to them of heroism, generosity, love and peace. Amen

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

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.

Salve, Re-gi-na, * ma-ter mi-se-ri-córdi-æ : Vi-ta, dulcé-do, et spes nostra, salve. Ad te clamámus, éx-su-les, fi-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

Why should we follow the church's authority? Why not just follow God? By following the Church we are following God. The Catholic Church is guided and lead by God. By our baptism, we receive the Word of God containing the teachings of "the law of Christ". "From the Church he receives the grace of the sacraments that sustains him on the 'way.' From the Church he learns the example of holiness and recognizes its model and source in the all-holy Virgin Mary; he discerns it in the authentic witness of those who live it; he discovers it in the spiritual tradition and long history of the saints who have gone before him and whom the liturgy celebrates in the rhythms of the sanctoral cycle." [19]

It is like our parents have authority over us. They have authority of us growing up because they are the ones who gave us life and protects us as we grow. When we are little infants we never question our parents because we instinctually know they are providing for us are well being. As we grow older we must think for ourselves but remain obedient to our parents to what they place as rules to us. We may think at times that we know better or that our parents don't understand, but ultimately they do know and understand. Likewise, in the church we are baptized into new life of Christ. From this point on our lives are completely dependent on Him. As we grow up we want to know and learn about Him and what He wants for us. Our Mother, the Church helps us learn this and we must be obedient to Him and our mother, the Church.

We should thank God for the Church because we have a right to be taught the truth and be lead by God in His divine saving grace. We have a right to "be instructed in the divine saving precepts that purify judgment and, with grace, heal wounded human reason." [20] Since we are taught and instructed by the Church we must be obedient to the legitimacy of the authority of the Church. "Even if they concern disciplinary matters, these determinations call for docility in charity." [21]

Profession of Faith or Popular Devotion – Prayer for Missionaries

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

Lord Jesus Christ, watch over your missionaries – priests, religious, and lay people – who leave everything to give testimony

and to strive after all that does it honor. 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. Amen.

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

Gospel Reading – Mark 6:7-13 – Daily Roman Missal

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

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick no food, no sack, no money in their belts. They were, however, to wear sandals but not a second tunic. He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave. Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them." So they went off and preached repentance. The Twelve drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

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

Spiritual Reading – Office of Readings

From the beginning of the treatise On the Mysteries by Saint Ambrose, bishop
[Catechesis on the rites preceding baptism](#)

We gave a daily instruction on right conduct when the readings were taken from the history of the patriarchs or the maxims of Proverbs. These readings were intended to instruct and train you, so that you might grow accustomed to the ways of our forefathers, entering into their paths and walking in their footsteps, in obedience to God's commands.

Now the season reminds us that we must speak of the mysteries, setting forth the meaning of the sacraments. If we had thought fit to teach these things to those not yet initiated

through baptism, we should be considered traitors rather than teachers. Then, too, the light of the mysteries is of itself more effective where people do not know what to expect than where some instruction has been given beforehand. Open then your ears. Enjoy the fragrance of eternal life, breathed on you by means of the sacraments. We explained this to you as we celebrated the mystery of “the opening” when we said: Effetha, that is, be opened. Everyone who was to come for the grace of baptism had to understand what he was to be asked, and must remember what he was to answer. This mystery was celebrated by Christ when he healed the man who was deaf and dumb, in the Gospel which we proclaimed to you.

After this, the holy of holies was opened up for you; you entered into the sacred place of regeneration. Recall what you were asked; remember what you answered. You renounced the devil and his works, the world and its dissipation and sensuality. Your words are recorded, not on a monument to the dead but in the book of the living.

There you saw the levite, you saw the priest, you saw the high priest. Do not consider their outward form but the grace given by their ministries. You spoke in the presence of angels, as it is written: The lips of a priest guard knowledge, and men seek the law from his mouth, for he is the angel of the Lord almighty. There is no room for deception, no room for denial. He is an angel whose message is the kingdom of Christ and eternal life. You must judge him, not by his appearance but by his office. Remember what he handed on to you, weigh up his value, and so acknowledge his standing.

You entered to confront your enemy, for you intended to renounce him to his face. You turned toward the east, for one who renounces the devil turns toward Christ and fixes his gaze directly on him.

Responsory – Office of Readings

We were once foolish, disobedient and misled. We then lived in malice and envy. Hateful ourselves, we hated one another.
— Because of his mercy, God has saved us through the baptism of rebirth and the renewal of the Holy Spirit.

All our lives were once ruled by physical desires, and by nature we deserved God’s anger.

What is authority of the church? This understanding of church authority comes a lot from the distinction of the doctrine and Traditions of the Church. According to the Catechism it is, “The task of giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God, whether in its written form or in the form of Tradition, has been entrusted to the living, teaching office of the Church alone. Its authority in this matter is exercised in the name of Jesus Christ. This means that the task of interpretation has been entrusted to the bishops in communion with the successor of Peter, the Bishop of Rom.”[15]

See Also: [Link to Liturgy Lesson – Church Authority](#)

How does the church have this authority? The Church has this authority simply because Jesus Christ bestowed it upon her and the bishops. As the Second Vatican Council teaches us, “In order to shepherd the People of God and to increase its numbers without cease, Christ the Lord set up in his Church a variety of offices which aim at the good of the whole body. The holders of office, who are invested with a sacred power, are, in fact, dedicated to promoting the interests of their brethren, so that all who belong to the People of God...may attain to salvation.”[16]

In today’s Gospel reading, we see Jesus giving this authority. “Jesus sends his Apostles to announce that the Kingdom of God, so long promised, is imminent, and to manifest its spiritual aspects. Our Lord tells them exactly what they have to preach: The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. He does not say anything about freedom from the Roman yoke under which the nation was suffering. He does not speak about what kind of social or political system they were to live under, nor, indeed, about any other exclusively worldly matter. Christ did not come for such a purpose, and they have not been chosen to concern themselves with such things.”[17]

When does the Church have to exercise her authority? Only in cases where faith and morals come into question from within the Church. “The Church’s Magisterium exercises the authority it holds from Christ to the fullest extent when it defines dogmas, that is when it proposes, in a form obliging the Christian people to an irrevocable adherence of faith, truths contained in divine Revelation or also when it proposes, in a definitive way, truths having a necessary connection with these.”[18]

continues with the establishment of Christian communities that are ‘a sign of God’s presence in the world,’ and leads to the foundation of local churches. It must involve a process of enculturation if the Gospel is to take flesh in each people’s culture. There will be times of defeat. ‘With regard to individuals, groups, and peoples it is only by degrees that [the Church] touches and penetrates them, and so receives them into a fullness which is Catholic.’”[12]

Finally, we must ask the Holy Spirit to lead us in our missionary work for He is the one who moves the Church and thus ourselves in our missionary paths. “The Holy Spirit is the protagonist, ‘the principal agent of the whole of the Church’s mission.’ It is he who leads the Church on her missionary paths. ‘This mission continues and, in the course of history, unfolds the mission of Christ, who was sent to evangelize the poor; so the Church, urged on by the Spirit of Christ, must walk the road Christ himself walked a way of poverty and obedience, of service and self-sacrifice even to death, a death from which he emerged victorious by his resurrection.’ So it is that ‘the blood of martyrs is the seed of Christians.’”[13]

Authority – Lesson and Discussion

“gave them authority over unclean spirits.”

In today’s gospel we not only see Jesus sending out the apostles as missionaries but also giving them authority. This authority is not taken back from the apostles. In fact, it is only strengthened as time goes on. “The Gospel of today’s Mass tells us how Jesus urges the Twelve whom He has just chosen to go out to fulfill their new task. This first errand is a preparation and a figure of the definitive sending that will take place after the Resurrection. (cf. Mt. 28:18-20)”[14] Today, the authority of the apostles rests on the bishops and the head of the bishops, the bishop of Rome, our Pope.

Because of his mercy, God has saved us through the baptism of rebirth and the renewal of the Holy Spirit.

House Blessing – Lesson and Discussion [1]

“Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave.”

What is a house blessing? We must first look at what a blessing is, in order to understand a house blessing. A blessing is “In liturgical language... a ritual ceremony by which an authorized cleric in major orders sanctifies persons or things to divine service, or invokes divine favor on what he blesses. The Church’s ritual provides for over two hundred such blessings, some of which are reserved to bishops or members of certain religious institutes.”[2] There is not a specific history of when homes began being blessed, but it has happened for hundreds of years. The blessing of a home is simply asking an ordained man to come and invoke God’s favor upon the home.

Why should you have a house blessing? Our home is probably the place where we spend the most amount of time. If the family is the domestic church, then the home is the structure in which they keep the faith alive. It is important to bless the home in order to keep temptations at bay and to keep the family at peace.

Who can do a house blessing? It is preferable to have the parish priest or a deacon do the blessing. However, if one is not available a lay person can do the blessing too.

When should I have my house blessed? There is no specific timetable of when one should bless their home, but it is customary to do it sooner than later; preferably within the first year of living there. It is also important to note that there should not be a blessing of the home if the owners who live there are not present. If someone has a new home they should not rush to bring in a priest to bless it if they are away; they need to be there in person.

How do I do a house blessing? Below is a step by step process of how to bless one's home.

Activity – Bless Your Home, Apartment, or Place of Living

When any of the faithful wish to mark their moving into a new home with a religious celebration, the parish priest (pastor) and his associates should gladly cooperate. The occasion provides a special opportunity for a gathering of the members of the community to mark the joyful event and to thank God, from whom all blessings come, for the gift of a new home.

The present order may be used by a priest or deacon. It may also be used by a lay person, who follows the rites and prayers designated for a lay minister. While maintaining the structure and chief elements of the rite, the minister should adapt the celebration to the circumstances of the place and the people involved.

Introductory Rites

When the family members and their relatives and friends have gathered in a convenient place, the minister says:

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

All make the Sign of the Cross and reply:

Amen

A minister who is a priest or deacon greets those present in the following or other suitable words, taken mainly from sacred Scripture.

Peace be with this house and with all who live here.

All make the following or some other suitable reply:

And with your spirit.

A lay minister uses the following greeting:

May the God whom we glorify with one heart and voice enable us, through the Spirit, to live in harmony as followers of Christ Jesus, now and for ever.

R. Amen

In the following or similar words, the minister prepares those present for the blessing.

When Christ took flesh through the Blessed Virgin Mary, he made his home with us. Let us now pray that he will enter this home and bless it with his presence. May he always be here with you, share in your joys, comfort you in your sorrows. Inspired by his teachings and example, seek to make your new home before

Along with bringing the truth to those who have not heard it or believe it, the Church also wishes that by missionary work we can bring back unity among Christians. “The Church’s mission stimulates efforts towards Christian unity. Indeed, ‘divisions among Christians prevent the Church from realizing in practice the fullness of catholicity proper to her in those of her sons who, though joined to her by Baptism, are yet separated from full communion with her. Furthermore, the Church herself finds it more difficult to express in actual life her full catholicity in all its aspects.’”[10]

How do we do missionary work? Our mission is to pass on the faith “...we must ask ourselves to what extent we pass on to our family and friends the most precious gift that we have – our faith in Christ. When we contemplate this incomparable gift we should feel moved to act, for the charity of Christ urges us on (Cf. 2 Cor. 5:14) to help build up around us a world which is more just and more human.”[11] Some of us may be called to go somewhere in the world and help refugees or the poorest of the poor, but there will be many of us who are called to be missionaries in our homes, workplaces, and communities. We may be called to bring awareness to those who are in most of need of God.

VIDEO – Kolkata Missionaries of Charity – POP CULTURE CONNECTION – 5:00

<https://youtu.be/dOmrVeFyYR8>

Fr. Leo, priest, chef, and author of “Grace before Meals” was asked to come to Kolkata to teach the missionaries of charity, the order that Blessed Mother Teresa started. In the video he documents the work the sisters and their order are doing and footage of his time there.

VIDEO – Catholic missionary produces film to keep African children in school – POP CULTURE CONNECTION – 2:35

https://youtu.be/LtJ_B6ZTHJE

The video is about a news report on a documentary that was made for the children in Malawi Africa. The video will help bring awareness and help raise funds for the children in Africa.

We do mission work by bringing the faith to others. We go out into the world to proclaim the Gospel. It is also a long process that must involve Holy Mother Church to bring about the mission work of God. “It begins with the proclamation of the Gospel to peoples and groups who do not yet believe in Christ,

disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and Lo, I am with you always, until the close of the age.”[4]

On a personal level, “No one should think that the call to salvation is completely answered by taking care of our personal welfare; that would no longer be Christian holiness, which is realized in the charity of Christ who gave his life for the redemption of the entire human race, in the love of his heavenly Father, which embraces all men. Every Christian is expected, though not all in the same manner, to spread ‘the gospel of salvation’ to others.”[5]

What is the nature (or mission) of the Church? The very nature of the Church is mission work. Her mission is the same mission of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. “The Lord’s missionary mandate is ultimately grounded in the eternal love of the Most Holy Trinity: ‘The Church on earth is by her nature missionary since, according to the plan of the Father, she has as her origin the mission of the Son and the Holy Spirit.’ The ultimate purpose of mission is none other than to make men share in the communion between the Father and the Son in their Spirit of love.”[6]

“By her very mission, ‘the Church...travels the same journey as all humanity and shares the same earthly lot with the world: she is to be a leaven and, as it were, the soul of human society in its renewal by Christ and transformation into the family of God.’ Missionary endeavor requires patience.”[7]

What motivates the Church to continue to inspire us to be missionaries? It is because the Bride of Christ wishes to draw all men to Him in every age. “‘for the love of Christ urges us on.’ Indeed, God ‘desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth’; that is, God wills the salvation of everyone through the knowledge of the truth. Salvation is found in the truth. Those who obey the prompting of the Spirit of truth are already on the way of salvation.”[8] However, as the catechism goes on to say that not everyone has been presented the truth fully and needs us as missionaries to bring about the truth. “Because she believes in God’s universal plan of salvation, the Church must be missionary.”[9]

all else a dwelling place of love, diffusing far and wide the goodness of Christ.

Reading of the Word of God

A reader, another person present, or the minister reads a text of sacred Scripture.

Listen to the words of the holy gospel according to Luke (10:5-9)

The Lord said to the seventy-two: ‘Into whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this household.’ If a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in the same house and eat and drink what I offered to you, for the laborer deserves his payment. Do not move about from one house to another. Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God is at hand for you.’”

Alternative Readings: Gen. 18:1-10, Mk. 1:29-30, Lk. 10:38-42, Lk. 19:1-9, Lk. 24:28-32

As circumstances suggest, the following responsorial psalm or some other suitable song may be sung or said.

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord. (Psalm 112)

Happy the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in his commands. His posterity shall be mighty upon the earth; the upright generation shall be blessed. **R.**

Wealth and riches shall be in his house; his generosity shall endure for ever. He dawns through the darkness, a light for the upright; he is gracious and merciful and just. **R.**

Well for the man who is gracious and lends, who conducts his affairs with justice; He shall never be moved; the just man shall be in everlasting remembrance. **R.**

An evil report he shall not fear; his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord. His heart is steadfast; he shall not fear till he looks down upon his foes. **R.**

Lavishly he gives to the poor; his generosity shall endure for ever; his horn shall be exalted in glory. **R.**

Intercessions

The intercessions are then said. The minister introduces them, and an assisting minister or someone else announces the intentions. From the following intentions, those best suited to the circumstances may be used or adapted, or other intentions that apply to the particular circumstances may be composed.

The minister says:

The Son of God, Lord of heaven and earth, made his home among us. With thankfulness and gladness let us call upon him, saying:

R. Stay with us, Lord.

Or

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister

Lord Jesus Christ, by your life with Mary and Joseph you sanctified the life of the home; dwell with us in our home, so that we may have you as our guest and honor you as our Head. (For this we pray:) **R.**

Assisting minister

In you every dwelling grows into a holy temple; grant that those who live in this house may be built up together into the dwelling place of God in the Holy Spirit. (For this we pray:) **R.**

Assisting minister

You taught your followers to build their houses upon solid rock; grant that the members of this family may hold fast to your teachings and, free of all discord, serve you with their whole heart. (For this we pray:) **R.**

Assisting minister

You had no place to lay your head, but in uncomplaining poverty you accepted the hospitality of your friends; grant that through our help people who are homeless may obtain decent housing. (For this we pray:) **R.**

Prayer of Blessing

A minister who is a priest or deacon says the prayer of blessing with hands outstretched; a lay minister says the prayer with the hands joined.

Lord, be close to your servants who move into this home (today) and ask for your blessing. Be their shelter when they are at home, their companion when they are away, and their welcome guest when they return. And at last receive them into the dwelling place you have prepared for them in your Father's house, where you live for ever and ever. **R. Amen.**

After the prayer of blessing, the minister sprinkles those present and the new home with holy water and, as circumstances suggest, during the sprinkling may say: Let this water call to mind our Baptism into Christ, who has redeemed us by his death and resurrection.

Concluding Rite

The minister concludes the rite by saying:

May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, and may the word of Christ in all its richness dwell in us, so that whatever we do in word and in work, we will do in the name of the Lord. **R. Amen.**

It is preferable to end the celebration with a suitable song.

Missionaries: The Life of the Church – Lesson and Discussion

“send them out two by two”

In the gospel today, Jesus sends out the apostles to be the first missionaries. Today, we are all called to be missionaries like the first apostles were.

What is a missionary? A missionary is “A person who is sent by Church authority to preach the Gospel, or help strengthen the faith already professed, among people in a given place or region. Essential to being a missionary, whether at home or abroad, is the desire to extend the Kingdom of Christ by preaching. Teaching, or other means of evangelization and catechesis.”[3]

Who are called to be missionaries? Those who are baptized into the Church are called to be missionaries. Jesus gave the authority over the apostles and through the apostles we are called to be obedient to Christ's call of missionary work. On a universal church level, “Having been divinely sent to the nations that she might be ‘the universal sacrament of salvation,’ the Church, in obedience to the command of her founder and because it is demanded by her own essential universality, strives to preach the Gospel to all men’: “Go therefore and make