



Proclamation of the Scripture      Most Reverend Peter Baldacchino

From the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians, 1:3-14

## **THE MYSTERY OF SALVATION AND OF THE CHURCH**

*God's plan of salvation*

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ.  
Thus he chose us in Christ before the world was made  
to be holy and faultless before him in love,  
marking us out for himself beforehand, to be adopted sons,  
through Jesus Christ.

Such was his purpose and good pleasure,  
To the praise of the glory of his grace,  
his free gift to us in the Beloved,  
in whom, through his blood, we gain our freedom,  
the forgiveness of our sins.

Such is the richness of the grace  
which he has showered on us in all wisdom and insight.

He has let us know the mystery of his purpose,  
according to his good pleasure which he determined  
beforehand in Christ,

for him to act upon when the times had run their course:  
that he would bring everything together under Christ, as head,  
everything in the heavens and everything on earth.

And it is in him that we have received our heritage,  
marked out beforehand as we were,  
under the plan of the One who guides all things  
as he decides by his own will,  
chosen to be,  
for the praise of his glory,



the people who would put their hopes in Christ before he came.  
Now you too, in him,  
have heard the message of the truth and the gospel of your salvation,  
and having put your trust in it  
you have been stamped with the seal of the Holy Spirit of the Promise,  
who is the pledge of our inheritance,  
for the freedom of the people whom God has taken for his own,  
for the praise of his glory.

*Reflection questions on Ephesians 1:3-14*

1. What are the spiritual blessings that you recognize that God the Father has blessed you with in Christ?
2. Have you experienced the forgiveness of sins? And how has that changed the way you relate to others?
3. How does the way you live your life show you believe that you have been chosen in Christ?
4. How do you live your life for the “praise of the glory of God?”



**2021 – 2022 Prayer for the Worldwide Synod  
Celebrated in the Diocese of Las Cruces**

*We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.  
With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.  
We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
Nor partiality influence our actions.  
Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life  
And not stray from the way of truth and what is right.  
All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time,  
In the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.*

**Synod Discussion Questions**

1. COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY
  - a. Who are we that are journeying together and who has been left out?
  - b. How do we bring them home?
2. DIALOGUE IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY
  - a. Are you able to dialogue openly and freely with anyone or any group in the Church about matters that are important in your life?
  - b. If not, what is preventing that process?
  - c. If yes, what has facilitated that process?
3. CELEBRATION
  - a. What draws you back to celebration within the Church community?
  - b. What pushes you away?