



EUCHALETTE

7 August 2005

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

ST. JOHN VIANNEY SUNDAY

LORD, I KNOW YOU ARE NEAR!

On this First Sunday of August, St. John Vianney Sunday, the Lord strengthens our faith in him by inviting us to reflect on the fruits of his saving presence. We live in a world full of violence and dangers that often make us feel as if we are about to sink. But with Jesus by our side and holding us firmly by the hand, nothing should frighten us, for he is the source of our salvation and peace.

This certainty should accompany us both as individuals and as Church, no matter how uncertain or stormy the times may be.

At no other moment is the Lord nearer to us than during the celebration of the Eucharist when he speaks to us in the Liturgy of the Word and gives himself to us in Holy Communion. Let us reawaken our faith to this wonderful reality as we are about to start our Eucharistic celebration.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

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

Lord, be true to your covenant, forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Rise up, O God, and defend your cause; do not ignore the shouts of your enemies.

Greeting

P –Grace and peace from God our Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit be with you all!

All –And also with you!

Penitential Rite

P –Brothers and sisters, to prepare ourselves to partici-

pate in the Eucharistic Sacrifice with a renewed heart, let us ask the Lord to purify us from all our sins. *(Pause)*

P –For the times we have been weak in faith and allowed discouragement to grip our hearts, Lord, have mercy!

All –Lord, have mercy!

P –For the times we have been a cause of apprehension and fear to others, Christ, have mercy!

All –Christ, have mercy!

P –For the times we have failed to acclaim you as our mighty Savior, 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 peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. 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!

Opening Prayer

P –Almighty and ever-living God, your Spirit made us your children, confident to call you Father. Increase your Spirit within us and bring us to our promised inheritance.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All–Amen!

LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading *1Kgs 19:9.11-13*

Persecuted because of his faithfulness to his prophetic mission, Elijah had a unique experience of the Lord's consoling presence at the entrance of a cave on Mount Horeb. After such an experience, he felt strong enough to resume fighting the battles of God.

R –A proclamation from the First Book of Kings

At the mountain of God, Horeb, Elijah came to a cave where he took shelter. Then the Lord said to him, “Go outside and stand on the mountain before the Lord; the Lord will be passing by.”

A strong and heavy wind was rending the mountains and crushing rocks before the Lord – but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake – but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake there was fire – but the Lord was not in the fire.

After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound. When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went and stood at the entrance of the cave.

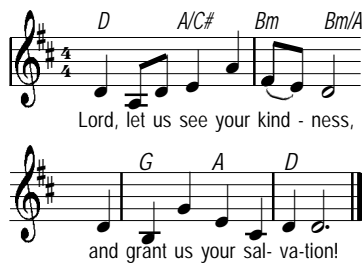
The Word of the Lord!
All–Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 85*

R –*Lord, let us see your kind-*

ness, and grant us your salvation!

R. M. Velez



* **I will hear what God proclaims; the Lord – for he proclaims peace. Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land.** **R.**

* **Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven.** **R.**

* **The Lord himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase. Justice shall walk before him, and prepare the way of his steps.** **R.**

2nd Reading *Rom 9:1-5*

In a rare moment of self-revelation, the apostle Paul manifests to his readers the great pain he is suffering because the Israelites persist in rejecting Jesus as the Messiah of God.

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

Brothers and sisters:

I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie; my conscience joins with the Holy Spirit in bearing me witness that I have great sorrow and constant anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites; theirs the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; theirs the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen!

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

Gospel Acclamation *Ps 130:5*

All–Alleluia! Alleluia!

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for his word. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 14:22-33

The presence of Jesus makes all the difference in the life of the Church and of all those who put their trust in him. This is verified especially in moments of danger. Such is the message of the account of what happened on a stormy night at the Lake of Gennesareth.

P –A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All–Glory to you, Lord!

After he had fed the people, Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening, he was there alone. Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it.

During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified. “It is a ghost!” they said, and they cried out in fear. At once Jesus spoke to them, “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.” Peter said to him in reply, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come!” Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how strong the wind was, he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter, and said to him, “You, man of little faith, why did you doubt?”

After they got into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat did Jesus homage, saying, “Truly, you are the Son of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord!
All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

Profession of Faith

All—I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen!

Prayer of the Faithful

P –Buffeted by the storms and difficulties of life, we confidently turn to the Lord, seeking in him protection and deliverance. In faith we pray:

All—Lord Jesus, save your people!

C –That the Catholic Church may find in her Lord the strength and consolation she needs to overcome the storms of persecution, deflections, and betrayals, let us pray! **R.**

C –That the Holy Father, Benedict XVI, and our bishops may continue to enjoy the enlightenment and strength they need to lead the Church in these times of moral confusion and rampant violence, let us pray! **R.**

C –That our parish priests and all those involved in the pastoral ministry may emulate the zeal and holiness of St. John Vianney, let us pray! **R.**

C –That the families whose

members are at odds among themselves may achieve a lasting reconciliation and learn to live in harmony, solidarity, and sincere love, let us pray! **R.**

C –That the preparations for the forthcoming World Youth Day may proceed smoothly and contribute to the success of the great event, let us pray! **R.**

C –Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions.

(Pause) Let us pray! **R.**

P –Lord Jesus, source of all courage and salvation, help us to face the challenges of life with a brave heart, trusting in your constant presence by our side till we reach the haven of peace where you live and reign for ever and ever!

All—Amen!

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



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 Church.

Prayer over the Gifts

P –God of power, giver of the gifts we bring, accept the offering of your Church and make it the sacrament of our salvation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!

Preface V

P –Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.

All things are of your making, all times and seasons obey your laws, but you chose to create man in your own image, setting him over the whole world in all its wonder. You made man the steward of creation, to praise you day by day for the marvels of your wisdom and

power, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We praise you, Lord, with all the angels in their song of joy:

All—Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, 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!

Acclamation

P –Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

All—Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory!

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 saves us in the storms of life. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

All—Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

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

Praise the Lord, Jerusalem; he feeds you with the finest wheat.

Prayer after Communion

P –Lord, may the Eucharist you give us bring us to salva-

tion and keep us faithful to the light of your truth.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

All—Amen!

**CONCLUDING
RITE**



P –The Lord be with you.

All—And also with you!

P –Bow your heads and pray for God’s blessing.

(Pause)

May God’s power shield you from all evil and grant you strength and undying hope.

All—Amen!

P –May you, in turn, become instruments of God’s protection to your brothers and sisters who are in danger or afraid.

All—Amen!

P –May the Lord bless your

undertakings and give you the abundance of his grace, good health, 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 and be instruments of love for all.

All—Thanks be to God!

RESCUE IN THE STORMS OF LIFE & HISTORY

The unexpected violent storm was frightening enough as it tossed the fragile boat with the twelve gasping disciples. Then the apparition of a man walking on the water as on solid ground just made things worse. It could only be a spirit—death itself, perhaps, coming to get them! . . .

The reassuring words of Jesus, *“It is I. Do not be afraid!”* needed to be verified. Peter thought he could put the Lord to the test. He did not realize that now *he was the one being tested*. His faith was tested. And it was soon obvious that he was failing the test. His daring request “Tell me to come to you across the water!” was about to cost him his very life. Good for him that Jesus was at hand. So Peter was saved—a seasoned, strong fisherman rescued by a carpenter/preacher who had seldom seen the sea in his life!

The moment Jesus climbed the boat, “the wind died down!” (*Mt 14:32*) Thus, that night Peter and his partners added yet another memorable, incredible event to the already long list of unforgettable experiences they had gone through since the day they had met the young rabbi from Nazareth

There is so much of Peter in each one of us. He is the head of a huge crowd to which we all belong. Though most of us are not fishermen and few may have been at sea in a fragile boat during a hellish night storm, many of us are over-confident impetuous, lacking constancy. . . like Peter! And *our life*, from time to time, *does resemble the stormy sea of Galilee, too!*

Sometimes, after daring too much and having used up the last ounce of our energies, gripped by the terror of the impending disaster, we too have found ourselves crying out: “Lord, save me!” These are the moments when our pride vanishes and the *child that is in us, the believer that is in us, surface from the killer waves and bring us to clasp desperately the friendly, steady hand of Jesus*, the only One Who can lead us to safety.

So *we have been saved* time and time again not by our might, but *by God’s merciful love*. And thus, thanks to Him, we have continued our journey through the sea of life ever-confident of the nearness of the God Who always protects and saves those who trust in Him.

But the storms are not limited to the lives of individual believers. They also concern the Church as a whole or parts of it. The Church has, indeed, over the centuries, often found itself in the eye of frightening “storms” that have caused

uncertainties and fears in many of its members and even of its leaders.

Such was the case of the numberless persecutions the Church has suffered over the centuries, starting with the harassment to which the Jewish authorities subjected the apostles shortly after the ascension of the Lord, to the latest attempts to destroy the Church and the faith of its members, carried out systematically by the Communist regimes, Nazism, and other dictatorships.

The Church has constantly been victimized not only by external enemies, but also by numerous “internal enemies,” such as the many heresies that have shaken the solidity of the faith, dividing the allegiance of the believers and even pitting one faction or sect against the rest of the Church. . . . The Church has, likewise, known the storms of moral corruption and a process of “worldization” that, in some historical circumstances, have reached even its highest leaders, transforming them into carbon copies of world leaders and making them forget or neglect the fundamental mission of preaching the Gospel and witnessing to it in one’s life. Such perversions have, in turn, occasioned the rising of various forms of radicalism that have led to violent confrontations, exaggerations, and perversions in the opposite direction.

The Church has also known many storms of an unbridled “modernization” and “adaptations” to the contemporary trends and principles, that risked to transform it into something very different from what Christ had intended it to be. On the other hand, such exaggerations were also the result of a stilted and stifling traditionalism that had made the Church irrelevant to the conditions and problems of certain societies and times.

In our time we witness the Church being vexed by the occasional dissent of a number of “liberal Catholics” who openly challenge the teaching of the Magisterium both in doctrinal and moral matters. This is a cause of scandal, confusion, and divisions within the Church that greatly reduce its effectiveness and credibility.

But, in spite of all these deficiencies and storms, the amazing thing is that *the Church is still alive and thriving in many ways in almost all parts of the world.* This is so only *because of the presence of the Lord Jesus in the Church.* It is his presence that has enabled the fragile boat of the Church to weather so many storms and survive so many crises. Today as in the past, Jesus repeats his reassuring words: “Take courage! It is I.”



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PUBLICATIONS**

Don Bosco Compound, A. Arnaiz Ave. cor. Chino Roces Ave., 1258 Makati, MM, Phils.

Postal Address: P.O. Box 1820, MCPO, 1258 Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines

Tel. Nos. 894-5401 (Marketing/Accounting); 894-5402 (Editorial) **Telefax:** 894-5241

E-mail: wordlife@mozcom.com • **Website:** www.wordandlife.faiithweb.com

Editorial Team: Fr. S. Putzu, H. Lasquite, G. Ramos, A. Sampang, D. Daguio, V. David

Illustrations: S. Fabris, B. Cleofe **Circulation Team:** M. Caquilala, F. Lavado