



# EUCHALETTE

21 August 2005

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

## CONCLUSION OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> WORLD YOUTH DAY

### ONE WITH THE CHURCH, ONE WITH THE YOUTH

**O**n this Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Lord invites us to reflect on the mystery of the Church and her leadership as instruments of God's plan for the spread of the Kingdom. We thank the Lord for having called us to be part of His new People. We can thereby enjoy the gifts of God's Word, the grace of the Sacraments, and the infallible guidance of our Church leaders in matters of doctrine and morals.

Today is the conclusion of the XX World Youth Day. In brotherly solidarity with all the participants and the youth of the whole world, we direct, in a special manner, our affectionate thoughts to the Holy Father, the successor of the apostle Peter and the Vicar of Jesus Christ on earth. In communion with him and all believers, let us offer this Eucharist in behalf and for the needs of all mankind.



### INTRODUCTORY RITES



#### Entrance Antiphon

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

**Listen, Lord, and answer me. Save your servant who trusts in you. I call to you all day long, have mercy on me, O Lord.**

#### Greeting

**P** -Blessed be the Lord Jesus Christ who established the Church on the rock of Peter's faith. May his grace and peace be with you all!  
**All** -And also with you!

#### Penitential Rite

**P** -Gathered together to of-

fer the Eucharistic Sacrifice and receive the Bread of Life, let us once again realize our unworthiness and the need to be purified from all our sins. *(Pause)*

**P** -You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God! Lord, have mercy!

**All** -Lord, have mercy!

**P** -You founded your Church to be for all ages the sacrament of salvation. Christ, have mercy!

**All** -Christ, have mercy!

**P** -You entrusted to Peter the keys of the Kingdom of heaven. 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** –Father, help us to seek the values that will bring us lasting joy in this changing world. In our desire for what you promise, make us one in mind and heart.

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 *Is 22:19-23*

*In Biblical times, to give the keys of a house to a person meant to bestow on him the power of stewardship over that house. The “promise of the keys” we read about in today’s passage foreshadows the much more important promise Jesus would make to Peter about the “keys of the Kingdom of heaven.”*

**R** –A proclamation from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord to Shebna, master of the palace: “I will thrust you from your office and pull you down from your station. On that day I will summon my servant Eliakim, son of Hilkiyah; I will clothe him with your robe, and gird him with your sash, and give over to him your authority. He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah. I will place the key of the House of David on Eliakim’s shoulder. When he opens, no one shall shut, when he shuts, no one shall open. I will fix him like a peg in a sure spot, to be a place of honor for his family.”

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

#### Responsorial Psalm *Ps 138*

**R** –*Lord, your love is eternal;*

**do not forsake the work of your hands!**

*R. M. Velez*



\* **I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with all my heart, for you have heard the words of my mouth; in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise; I will worship at your holy temple.** **R.**

\* **I will give thanks to your name, because of your kindness and your truth: when I called, you answered me; you built up strength within me.** **R.**

\* **The Lord is exalted, yet the lowly he sees, and the proud he knows from afar. Your kindness, O Lord, endures forever; forsake not the work of your hands.** **R.**

#### 2nd Reading *Rom 11:33-36*

*After having reflected on God’s universal saving love, the apostle Paul bursts into this beautiful hymn of praise we should learn to make our own.*

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

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord or who has been his counselor? Or who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid? For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen!

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

#### Gospel Acclamation *Mt 16:18*

**All–Alleluia! Alleluia!**  
**You are Peter and upon**

**this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

#### Gospel

*Mt 16:13-20*

*Simon Peter’s declaration that Jesus is the promised Messiah and the Son of the Living God gives Jesus the opportunity to reveal his plan about the Church and Peter’s unique leading role in it. Today’s passage is the foundation of our belief that the Church is the new “People of God” which will endure until the end of time under the stewardship of Peter’s successors.*

**P** –A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

**All–Glory to you, Lord!**

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter said in reply, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus said to him in reply, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

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** -In today's Gospel we are reminded about the enduring character of the Church, and her having to withstand the relentless attacks of "the powers of hell." As children of the Church, let us address to the Lord our prayer for her needs as God's family on earth. Let us pray together:

**All-Lord, hear our prayer!**

**C** -For the Church, the new People of God: May she persevere in her faithfulness to her Founder, even as he watches over her with loving concern and power. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** -For the Holy Father, the successor of Peter as the supreme shepherd of the Church: May he constantly experience the guidance of the Lord and his protection against the forces of evil. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** -For our Bishop, our parish priest, and all other leaders of the Church: May they guide God's flock in exemplary faithfulness to the Divine Leader so as to offer us inspiration and encouragement. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** -For the organizers of the 20th World Youth Day and all those who have participated in it: May they see the

fruit of their efforts for many years to come. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** -For the youth of the world, especially those who live in material or moral misery: May they find in the Church their trusted guide and the promoter of their integral welfare. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** -Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions. (Pause) Let us pray! **R.**

**P** -Lord Jesus, we thank you for having called us to be part of the Church you established on the solid rock of Peter's faith. Preserve us in your service until we are gathered with the rest of your people in the glory of heaven to praise and worship you 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** -Merciful God, the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ made us your people. In your love, grant peace and unity to your Church.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All-Amen!**

#### Preface I

**P** -Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through his cross and resurrection he freed us from sin and death and called us to the glory that has made us a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people set apart. Everywhere we proclaim your mighty works

for you have called us out of darkness into your own wonderful light.

And so, with all the choirs of angels in heaven we proclaim your glory and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**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 entrusted to Peter the keys of the kingdom of heaven. 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.)

**Lord, the earth is filled with your gift from heaven; man grows bread from earth, and wine to cheer his heart.**

### Prayer after Communion

**P** –Lord, may this Eucharist increase within us the healing power of your love. May it guide and direct our efforts to please you in all things.

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 the Lord, in His kindness, make your faith as strong as the faith of Peter!

**All–Amen!**

**P** –May He make you loyal children of the Church and faithful followers of the Holy Father!

**All–Amen!**

**P** –May He console you in all your afflictions and make you instruments of His love!

**All–Amen!**

**P** –May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**All–Amen!**

**P** –Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All–Thanks be to God!**

## CHOSEN TO BE A SOLID ROCK

**S**imon did nothing special to attract Jesus’ attention and deserve “preferential treatment.” He only put his fishing boat at the disposal of the Master, and accepted to carry out Jesus’ questionable instruction to cast the nets again when the sun was already high on the horizon – a most unlikely hour for a good catch. *(See Lk 5:4f.) Yet Jesus loved him with a special love.* There were reasons for that

....  
**Simon was a simple, unschooled fisherman.** He was well aware of all his limitations and moral failures. *(See Lk 5:8.)* But when the crucial moment came to express his opinion on Jesus, **he showed a unique perceptiveness** which outshone all others. He had no doubt: **Jesus was “the Messiah, the Son of the living God”** *(Mt 16:16).*

The learned and the clever had formed their opinion about the Christ from what they had studied or heard or seen with their material eyes. Their answers could only be conjectural. They were all inadequate. But Simon’s deep conviction – his faith – was rooted in another kind of knowledge: **divine revelation. It was God Himself who had implanted that certitude in him.** Hence, Jesus’ reaction: “Blest are you, Simon! . . . No mere man has revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father” *(Mt 16:17).*

**This fisherman from Bethsaida was the object of the Father’s special love.** God knew him through and through: his weakness as well as his generosity and sincerity. God had plans for him. He who put the right answer on his lips, would still enlighten him, time and time again, whenever needed for the good of His Church.

Peter would outlive his Master only by thirty years, but **the mission of being “rock” and steersman would outlive the fisherman from Galilee and would last till the end of time.** It would live on in his successors, regardless of their personal worth, century after century. Peter’s role would be fulfilled by others, called by different given names, but **always bearing the same root name of “Peter/Rock.”** On each of them, as on the fisherman from

Bethsaida Jesus has been conferring his authority to bind and loose, and the strength and wisdom needed to steer the fragile but unsinkable boat of the Church. Ever assailed by hell’s fury, **this Church is ever victorious over storms and reefs, as it is steered by the God-steadied hand of Peter’s successors.**

As members of the Catholic Church – the Church established by Jesus Christ, and by him entrusted to the visible stewardship of Peter and his successors – we should, first of all, feel grateful to the Lord for having given us a visible leader who guides us with the authority and power received from Christ. This is no small advantage, in the cacophony of so many discordant voices which create uncertainty and confusion, **all that we have to do is to listen to the voice of Peter’s successor and act on it, knowing that the Lord constantly guides the Pope and preserves him from committing errors in matters of faith and morals.**

In the light of this premise, it is sadly surprising to meet self-styled Catholics who dare to take positions in the doctrinal or moral fields that are not in agreement with the teaching of the Holy Father. **A real Catholic has to be a loyal follower of the supreme Shepherd assigned by Jesus Christ.** This may not be so easy, sometimes. But when all is said and done, we have to remember that **it was to Peter (and not to individual believers) that Jesus said, “To you (thee!) I will give the keys of the Kingdom of heaven.** Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” *(Mt 16:19)*

Nor should we reduce our duties toward **the Pope** to loyalty and obedience. He **is our spiritual Father, our “Gentle Christ on earth,”** as St. Catherine of Siena called him. As such, **we must love him affectionately and sincerely.** And we must, likewise, pray for him, as we pray for the people most dear to us. So heavy a burden has been placed on his shoulders. He needs all the help he can get, and prayer is the most effective help when offered with living faith and a loving heart.



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