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Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (A) — White

September 1, 2023

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

“Preparation, sanctification, and creation” allow us to see Jesus.

Preparation. Today’s Gospel suggests that we encounter Jesus through people and events in our lives as he constantly reminds us of his coming. Tasked to take on this responsibility and head on independently, we cannot rely on others for us to be ready. In the parable, Jesus is the bridegroom, and the virgins characterize the members of the Church. Some people prepare their whole being. Their hearts serve as vessels in bringing “flasks of oil” by following God’s Word, establishing their faith-life orientation, and connecting to Jesus Christ. Meanwhile, others are offhanded in bringing “no oil” and going “off to buy it,” thus missing the chance to feast with the bridegroom, paying the ultimate price and suffering the consequences of their unpreparedness.

Sanctification. We ought to walk and please God by obeying his commandments and doing his will. We are called to abstain from impurities and secure our own vessels in sanctification and honor. Thus, in lighting the way of the bridegroom, we should be watchful in prayer and supplication, be vigilant at the snares of spiritual corruption, and be responsive in spiritual preparedness, always having our lamps and oils ready. In doing so, we have come truly prepared to see Jesus.

PREPARATION, SANCTIFICATION, CREATION

by Ms. Ericka Mae B. Cunanan



Creation. As we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, let us remember that a true ecological approach becomes a social approach. May we be mindful that there is an “inseparable bond” that links concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace.

By engaging in global dialogue, practicing ecological conversion, and investing in our people and our planet, we are emulating the “wise” virgins. However, we must be careful against counting on quick fixes, just like the foolish virgins who thought they could get an easy refill of oil for their lamps.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Ps 86 [85]: 1–3)

(Recited when there is no opening song.)

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servants who trust in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

Greeting

(The sign of the cross is made here.)

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

Introduction

(These [or similar words] may be used to address the assembly.)

P—Faced with the need to make a decision or commit ourselves to a particular course of action, we tend to postpone certain actions and decisions for another day. We even have a term for this: *mañana* habit. And when the next day dawns, we are as reluctant as ever to take the decision or make the commitment.

A wise Christian decides and acts for the values of God's kingdom now. Tomorrow may be too late. As believers, we must always be prepared to encounter God who comes to us through the persons we meet and the circumstances we find ourselves in.

Penitential Act

P—Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

(Pause)

P—Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All—For we have sinned against you.

P—Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

All—And grant us your salvation.

P—May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All—Amen.

P—Lord, have mercy.

All—Lord, have mercy.

P—Christ, have mercy.

All—Christ, have mercy.

P—Lord, have mercy.

All—Lord, have mercy.

Collect

P—Let us pray. *(Pause)*

O God, who cause the minds

of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. and ever.

All—Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD



First Reading (1 Thes 4:1–8) *(Sit)*

St. Paul in his letter to the Thessalonians teaches the Christian community on how they should please God and on how they should follow God's will.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians

BROTHERS AND SISTERS, we earnestly ask and exhort you in the Lord Jesus that, as you received from us how you should conduct yourselves to please God—and as you are conducting yourselves—you do so even more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

This is the will of God, your holiness: that you refrain from immorality, that each of you know how to acquire a wife for himself in holiness and honor, not in lustful passion as do the Gentiles who do not know God; not to take advantage of or exploit a brother or sister in this matter, for the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you before and solemnly affirmed. For God did not call us to impurity but to holiness. Therefore, whoever disregards this, disregards not a human being but God, who also gives his Holy Spirit to you.

—The word of the Lord.

All—Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 97)

R—Rejoice in the Lord, you just!

1. The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice; let the many isles be

glad Justice and judgment are the foundation of his throne. **(R)**

2. The mountains melt like wax before the Lord, before the Lord of all the earth. The heavens proclaim his justice, and all peoples see his glory. **(R)**

3. The Lord loves those who hate evil; he guards the lives of his faithful ones; from the hand of the wicked he delivers them. **(R)**

4. Light dawns for the just; and gladness, for the upright of heart. Be glad in the Lord, you just, and give thanks to his holy name. **(R)**

Verse before the Gospel

(Cf. Lk 21:36) *(Stand)*

All—Alleluia, alleuia. Be vigilant at all time and pray, that you may have the strength to stand before the Son of Man. Alleluia, alleuia.

Gospel (Mt 25:1–13)

P—A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
All—Glory to you, O Lord.

JESUS told his disciples this parable: "The Kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.' While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord,

open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

—The Gospel of the Lord.

All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily (*Sit*)

Prayer of the Faithful

P—The parable of the Ten Virgins tells us to be prepared for the Lord's coming so that we may join the wedding feast. May we spend our days wisely, "not in sexual excess or drunkenness," for death may come to us like a thief in the night. For every petition we say:

R—Father, hear our prayer.

C—May the virgins in the parable remind us that we are a community called to wait joyfully for the coming of Christ, the Bridegroom, and to live so as to be worthy to enter the banquet. We pray: **(R)**

C—May the virgins' lamps remind us of Jesus' invitation to be the light of the world, so that our lives may shine before others and help them find their way to God. We pray: **(R)**

C—May we bring flasks of oil that symbolizes joy and gladness, confidence, and anointing of the Holy Spirit that keep us prepared for the unexpected coming of Christ. We pray: **(R)**

C—Like the wise virgins, may we always keep our lamps burning, and not wait for the last moment when it might already be too late. We pray: **(R)**

C—May the Lord open the door of heaven for our departed brothers and sisters and grant them a place at the wedding feast. We pray: **(R)**

C—Let us pray for the urgent concerns of our community and our personal intentions (*pause*). We pray: **(R)**

P—Lord God, we do not know

the day or the hour when our life on earth will be over. We pray that we may have the strength to stand before Christ our Savior and enter the joy of Paradise. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **All—Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Presentation of the Gifts
(*Stand*)

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 holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P—O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by adoption, through the one sacrifice offered once for all, bestow graciously on us, we pray, the gifts of unity and peace in your Church.

Through Christ our Lord. **All—Amen.**

Preface VI

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

P—Lift up your hearts.

All—We lift them up to the Lord.

P—Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All—It is right and just.

P—It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Father most holy, through your Beloved Son, Jesus Christ, your Word through whom you made all things, whom you sent as our Savior and Redeemer, incarnate by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin.

Fulfilling your will and gaining for you a holy people, he stretched out his hands as he endured his Passion, so as to break the bonds of death and manifest the resurrection.

And so, with the Angels and all the Saints, we declare your glory, as with one voice we acclaim:

All—Holy, Holy, Holy... (Kneel)

Acclamation (*Stand*)

All—Save us, Savior of the

world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

All—Our Father...

P—Deliver us, Lord...

All—For the kingdom...

Invitation to Peace

Invitation to Communion
(*Kneel*)

P—Behold the Lamb of God...

All—Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon (Cf. Ps 104 [103]: 13–15)

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

Prayer after Communion
(*Stand*)

P—Let us pray. (*Pause*)

Complete within us, O Lord, we pray, the healing work of your mercy and graciously perfect and sustain us, so that in all things we may please you.

Through Christ our Lord. **All—Amen.**

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

Prayer over the People

P—Bow down for the blessing. (*Pause*)

Be gracious to your people, O Lord, and do not withhold consolation on earth from those you call to strive for heaven.

Through Christ our Lord. **All—Amen.**

P—And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, (+) and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

All—Amen.

Dismissal

P—Go forth the Mass is ended.

All—Thanks be to God.



PRAYER TO THE SACRED HEART *of Jesus*

Divine Jesus, you have said, "Ask, and you shall receive; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you," behold me kneeling at your feet, filled with a lively faith and confidence in the promises dictated by your Sacred Heart and pronounced by your adorable lips. I come to ask this favor: *(Here silently mention your petition/s).*

To whom can I turn if not to you whose Heart is the source of all graces and merits? Where should I seek if not in the treasure which contains all the riches of your kindness and mercy? Where should I knock if not at the door through which God gives himself to us and through which we go to God? I have recourse to you, Heart of Jesus. In you I find consolation when afflicted,

protection when persecuted, strength when burdened with trials, and light in doubt and darkness.

Dear Jesus, I firmly believe that you can grant me the grace I implore, even though it should require a miracle. You have only to will it, and my prayer will be granted. I admit that I am most unworthy of your favors, but this is not a reason for me to be discouraged. You are the God of mercy and you will not refuse a contrite heart. Cast upon me a look of mercy, I beg of you, and your kind Heart will find in my miseries and weaknesses a reason for granting my prayers.

O Sacred Heart, whatever may be your decision with regard to my request, I will never stop adoring, loving, praising and serving you. My Jesus, be pleased to accept this my act of perfect resignation to the decrees of your adorable Heart which I sincerely desire may be fulfilled in and by me and all your creatures forever.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I know that there is but one thing impossible to you: to be without pity for those who are suffering or in distress. Look upon me, I beg of you, dear Jesus, and grant me the grace for which I humbly implore you through the Immaculate Heart of your most sorrowful Mother. You have entrusted me to her as her child, and her prayers are all-powerful with you. **Amen.**

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