



PONDO NG PINOY SUNDAY

Homily Guide for July 2020



Pondo ng Pinoy Sunday Pointers for Homily 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Education Sub-Committee Head

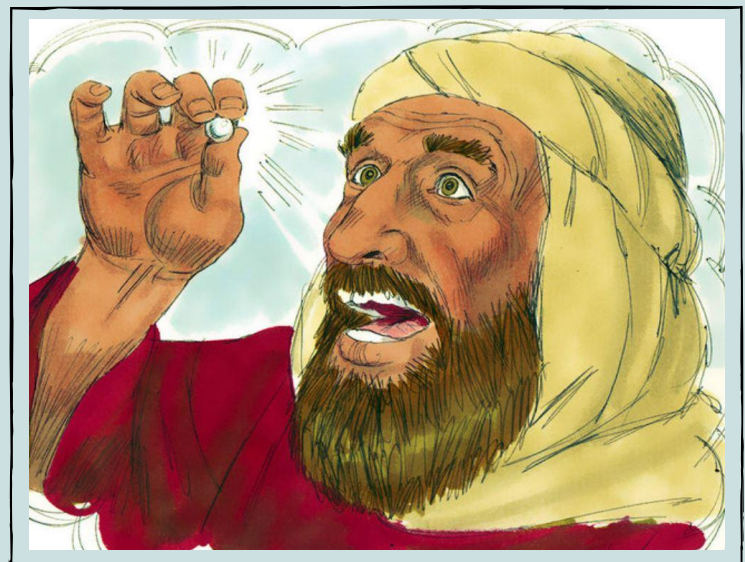
The Parables on the Kingdom of Heaven

The Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

1. Jesus teaches about the Kingdom of Heaven in three parables: the Kingdom of Heaven as a buried treasure, as a pearl of great price, and as a net that catches all kinds of fish.
The Kingdom of Heaven is like a buried treasure.
2. The Kingdom of Heaven must be searched for. It must be desired. And one has to work hard to discover it.
3. The Kingdom of Heaven is like a pearl of great price. It is priceless. It is rare. It is very special.
4. The Kingdom of Heaven is like a net thrown into the sea which collects fish of every kind. The good fish is kept and the bad fish is thrown away. The Kingdom of Heaven purifies. It calls everyone to come to grip with the reality of good and evil in one's life. The good we have to choose and the bad we have to avoid or throw away. The process of purification is getting rid of non-essentials and unworthy of being a disciple of Christ. Thus, keeping only what is necessary to be worthy disciples of Jesus.
5. The Kingdom of Heaven is worth all our possessions. When we find it, "we will sell everything in order to buy it." Not a single material thing can equal the Kingdom of Heaven, not even the greatest of our material riches. There is such a sense of completeness, of contentment, of joy, of peace and so on, when we discover the Kingdom of Heaven.

Pondo ng Pinoy: Living the call of the Kingdom of Heaven

1. Pondo ng Pinoy values even the smallest act of goodness that one can offer.
The "hidden treasure" of Pondo ng Pinoy is the little acts of goodness that we try to do and practice every day, symbolized by the 25 centavos which we call "crumbs." The value is not in the amount but in the heart where giving comes from. It is our intention to help the poor and the needy that matters. And, as proven, when we put together all the crumbs - the little acts of goodness - that we share every day, they are able to create jobs, build houses, provide education and health, and so on.
2. The "pearl of great price" in Pondo ng Pinoy are the beneficiaries, the poor – the least, the lost and the last. They are priceless, they are special. They are the 'raison d'être' of Pondo ng Pinoy, meaning, when we start caring and loving the poor, we will stay caring and loving them.
3. The purifying act of the net that is cast into the sea and catches all sort of fish, is for all of us partners participating in Pondo ng Pinoy. The single goal and purpose of Pondo ng Pinoy is to bring us all to heaven, "Anumang magaling, basta't malimit, ay patungong langit." What make us worthy of heaven is a pure heart. The little acts of goodness that we do everyday purifies us. It helps us realize and discover the good in us. It teaches us that to live in goodness everyday is one way of avoiding and overcoming the bad and the evil in us.
4. At the end, we can say, the Kingdom of Heaven starts here and now. And Pondo ng Pinoy teaches us that it is possible to discover the Kingdom of Heaven and to live in it everyday.





16 July – Our Lady of Mount Carmel

The feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, celebrated on July 16, was first instituted in the late 14th century in commemoration of the approval of the rule of the Carmelite Order a hundred years earlier. According to legend, a religious community was established even before the time of Christ on Mount Carmel and despite difficulties, the community built a monastery and church dedicated to the Virgin Mary on Mount Carmel in 1263. The spread of the Carmelites in Europe is largely attributable to the work of Saint Simon Stock (1247-1265). The Carmelite Order was formally approved in 1274 at the Council of Lyon.

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/resources/mary/popular-marian-devotions/our-lady-of-mount-carmel>

25 July - Saint James the Greater

James the Greater was one of Jesus' first disciples. Saint James the Greater was one of Jesus' first disciples. He was also one of only three called by Jesus to witness his Transfiguration. Following Christ's Ascension, James spread the Gospel across Israel and the Roman kingdom as well. He traveled and spread the Word for nearly forty years in Spain. Later, James returned to Jerusalem but was martyred for his faith by King Herod. Saint James the Greater is known as the first apostle to die.

https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=59

26 July - Fil-Mission Sunday

The Fil-Mission Sunday is being celebrated every last Sunday of July. It is a special day of prayer and thanksgiving to God for the gift of faith that we received.

It is a day particularly dedicated to the members of the Mission Society of the Philippines (MSP) for their selfless efforts in proclaiming the Gospel, especially to the young churches in Asia and to other parts of the world, on behalf of the Catholic Church of the Philippines. The Church encourages the faithful to be in solidarity with the MSP, and to be part of its missionary work. On this day, the lay faithful are invited to pray and to share material offerings for the MSP.

<http://www.msp.org.ph/help.do?id=6166>

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Pondo ng Pinoy Prayer

Written by: Rev. Fr. Angelito L. Caliwag

Lord Jesus, you taught us that the Kingdom of God is like the mustard seed, the smallest of all seeds. Yet when grown, it becomes the biggest of all trees where birds play and make their nests.

Lord, in this spirit, Pondo ng Pinoy lives its vision. Little acts of kindness done with constancy realize your Kingdom here and now. Through these little acts we reach out to the little ones, the least, the lost and the last in our community. We hope to uplift the lives of the poor, create opportunities that can change their lives, and free them from misery. We hope to be an instrument of your love by caring for them. Thus, Pondo ng Pinoy teaches us that charity is an act that starts small and done with consistency in order to be effective and true.

On the other hand, the same spirit of Pondo ng Pinoy teaches us that these little acts of kindness are life-changing not only to the receiver but also to the giver. The constancy of sharing molds our being into a person that you want us to be, living in charity and love. By giving with regularity the giver learns to empty himself/herself and creates a space for others in his/her heart consciously. By sharing even just a "crumb" everyday, the giver grows healthier and stronger in charity. Thus, in Pondo ng Pinoy, we do not only share but by giving we also receive.

Lord, help us, as we try to live the spirit of Pondo ng Pinoy, to realize your Kingdom here on earth and attain fullness of life in the here and now.

Amen.



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