

# PONDO NG PINOY SUNDAY

## Homily Guide for September 2020

## PONDO NG PINOY SUNDAY HOMILY GUIDE

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

By: Rev. Fr. Errol Fidel H. Mananquil  
Priest Coordinator, Pondo ng Pinoy Desk  
Diocese of Pasig

### True Obedience to the Will of God

Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

31" And Jesus said to them (v23 "the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the Jewish authorities"), 'Truly, I say to you: the publicans and the prostitutes are ahead of you on the way to the kingdom of heaven. For John came to show you the way of goodness and you did not believe him; but the publicans and the prostitutes did.'

This is apparently a very aggressive and insulting statement of the Lord Jesus towards the religious and civil/political leaders of His time that eventually led to the very painful and shameful death on the cross, and yet, the same reality that lifted Him up to the glory of heaven. This is the paradox of the Lord Jesus' obedience to the will of the Father.

This is an eye-opener, a challenging and revealing statement of the Lord Jesus with regard to my obedience to His will. This is also a loving and joyful invitation of the Lord Jesus for me to go into silence, contemplate, and listen to the voice-of-God in the silence of my heart and see in the eyes of faith, if I am really obedient and doing the will of God - the only True and Living God whom the Lord Jesus revealed to all of us. Or is it to the false gods of my ego e.g. prestige, wealth and power -- the three great temptations of the Lord Jesus by the devil during his forty days in the desert, and the same daily temptations in my life.

For this gospel, let us meditate on three questions: what is true "Sequela Christi", why do I strive and work hard to be really obedient, and whose will am I really listening to and doing this for?

#### Knowing Who I Really Am

First, true "Sequela Christi" or "following of Christ" is living daily in constant awareness that my being inherently precedes my doing. Everything I do always springs from my understanding and acceptance of my identity. All my actions are external expressions of my inner conviction of who I am.

When angel Gabriel announced God's plan for her, the Blessed Virgin Mary said: "I am the servant of the Lord, may it be done to me according to your word". She knew and accepted her vocation and role in the grand plan of God's love and salvation; her identity and conviction from which sprung everything she did and perpetually doing. Everything she did revealed her identity and spirituality.

In the baptism of the Lord Jesus in the river Jordan, a voice was heard from on high, "this is my beloved son". Like the Lord Jesus, I believe that my identity is also in being a "beloved son of God". The life of the Lord will be my forever model and pattern of living. It is therefore very important that I know who I am, understand and accept the gifts I received from the Father, through, with and in the Son by the power of the Holy Spirit. Knowing my identity and by understanding and accepting myself as having both weaknesses and strengths becomes the very foundation of my life and of all my actions.

#### Knowing My Motivations

Second, why do I work hard to be obedient? Socrates once said: "An unexamined life is not worth living". To me, living a worthy and meaningful life is to be always aware of my motivations in everything I do. When I pray, I always ask: is this for prestige? Am I doing this for good reputation, to be appreciated and praised? Is this for my security or material gain? For power? To show to everyone that I am strong and the one in control? Living daily without examining motivations could lead to a messy life -- always stressful, fearful and even angry.

#### Whose Will Am I Following?

Third, whose will am I really listening to? Only in silence that I see and hear (through the eyes and ears of my heart) whose voice and will I am listening and doing this for. Is it the gentle voice of God or the desires and longings of my ego?

Little acts of kindness, one of Pondo ng Pinoy's four pillars invites us to not only do good for others, but primarily to do good for ourselves by doing short daily examinations of our life - who am I? What are my convictions? My motivations? Is it really God that I am following? Spending time in silence regularly can lead us to a deeper awareness of the voice of God and, to a better us - both in giving and in receiving God's grace.

This is the way I believe, and I pray always that with the strength and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, I may live and forever be truly obedient to the will of God.



## The Call of Christian Discipleship

### Reflection on the Gospel

by: Mo. Mary Peter Camille A. Marasigan, FLDP  
Diocesan Coordinator, Pondo ng Pinoy Desk  
Diocese of Ilagan



The gospel story talks about the son who said “no” but in the long run lived by a “yes.” Just like in the Hebrew Testament, Moses pleads, “If you please, Lord, send someone else.” Jeremiah complains, “I’m too young, I don’t know how to speak.”

The gospel has many examples of “no” to “yes” transformations. Like the parable of the prodigal son, his habitual “no” became a definite “yes” to his father as he turned back to God. Peter denied his best friend, Jesus and later repented with a “yes” for the rest of his life. Thomas went from the “no” of doubt to the “yes” of belief by proclaiming “my Lord and my God.”

The point of such stories is that the worst “no” can become a glorious “yes” if the one who struggles to make it so will accept to be graced by God’s mercy.

#### **We All Need a Change of Heart**

The gospel of today teaches us that conversion has something to do with change of mind and heart. It is a total overhaul of a belief system (from old to new) brought about through baptism. One cannot follow Christ without the initial conversion in baptism. Baptism of repentance spells our ability to follow Jesus. Thus, there is no Christian discipleship without repentance.

In our lives, our involvement in the church can be a tricky business. Unconsciously, we may be using the liturgy, our position, our influence and the facilities of the church for our own gains. That is why, there is always a need to examine our motivations. Ongoing formation touches our hearts and leads us to realize our limitations.

#### **Pondo ng Pinoy, An Engine for Transformation**

Pondo ng Pinoy teaches the road map of Jesus’ commandment to love God and neighbor by seeking the poor in their deplorable living situations. This shift of “falling in love with God” through unwavering service to the poorest of the poor is a giant leap of transformation.

Its tool for change uses little acts of goodness, like the crumbs falling from the rich man’s table. The littleness of the 25 centavo coin enables us to save for the needy... saved daily until it becomes our habit, and ultimately our virtue. And the 25- centavo coin is within the reach of all...young and old, poor and rich, women and men at all times.

As Diocesan Pondo ng Pinoy Coordinators, leaders, contributors, and partners, how can we be an authentic servant (disciple) in this season of Ecumenism, Inter-Religious Dialogue and Indigenous Peoples and in this time of pandemic?

#### **A Call to Ka-Pondo Advocates**

In the eyes of God, we are all sinners. We must go back to him. Even if we have been active in the programs and activities of Pondo ng Pinoy for so long, we still need conversion. We cannot sit back and imagine we have been doing the right things all the time. We must learn how to discern the best way to follow Christ in our context here and now. Our practices and theology might be correct but they can be irrelevant if they do not bring us to true conversion and fullness of life.

In this Season of Ecumenism, Inter-Religious Dialogue and Indigenous Peoples, part of our conversion should be the eradication of prejudices and fears towards people of different faiths and culture. In this time of pandemic, we are all called to help one another as brothers and sisters regardless of our status, color, race or religion. In this Season of Creation, together as one human family, let us clean and make beautiful our common home. Let us make the Pondo ng Pinoy stories transform the deafness and blindness of our hearts and melt the hardness of the worst “no” to become a glorious “yes” as an icon of modern God’s disciples.





# Season of Creation

## 1 SEPTEMBER - CARE FOR CREATION DAY

Pope Francis recently declared September 1 as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, as the Orthodox Church has done since 1989. According to Pope Francis, "The annual World Day of prayer for the Care of Creation offers to individual believers and to the community a precious opportunity to renew our personal participation in this vocation as custodians of creation, raising to God our thanks for the marvelous works that He has entrusted to our care, invoking his help for the protection of creation and his mercy for the sins committed against the world in which we live."

<https://catholicclimatemovement.global/world-day-of-prayer/>

## 1 SEPTEMBER TO 4 OCTOBER - SEASON OF CREATION

The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together.

Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I proclaimed 1 September as a day of prayer for creation for the Orthodox in 1989. The World Council of Churches was instrumental in making the special time a season, extending the celebration from 1 September until 4 October.

Following the leadership of Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I and the WCC, Christians worldwide have embraced the season as part of their annual calendar. Pope Francis made the Roman Catholic Church's warm welcoming of the season official in 2015.

The season starts 1 September, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations.

<https://seasonofcreation.org/about/#about-the-season-of-creation>

## Prayer

by Mo. Mary Peter Camille A.  
Marasigan, FLDP

*Lord, we praise you and thank you for for the gift of Christian Vocation in the school of charity and service through the ministry of Pondo ng Pinoy. We humbly ask you to accompany us in all our journey as we continue serving our lost, last and least brothers and sisters in the periphery.*

*Give us the courage to be a humble servant of Pondo ng Pinoy -- selfless and patient servants who are there when needed; coordinators who are fraternal and accommodating; who are quietly enduring insults and pains; who are focused in their work, who do their tasks well; and who report for duty with a heart.*

*As we try to live the spirituality of Pondo ng Pinoy, help us to be obedient in following your ways without condition and reservation. Give us the grace to imitate Jesus who voluntarily and humbly empties himself of all his privileges, prestige, power and wealth as God and undergoes the Way of the Cross and dies.*

*Transform us to become a man and woman of loving and humble Christian disciples; selfless and life-giving to others in our constant: kahit maliit, basta malimit na pagtugon ay patungong langit."*

Amen.

## EDITORIAL BOARD

Education Sub-Committee • Promotions Sub-Committee