

From Your Pastor

Following is an excerpt from this year's message
from the Holy Father for the Season of Lent.



MESSAGE OF POPE BENEDICT XVI FOR LENT 2010

*"The justice of God has been manifested
□ through faith in Jesus Christ" (cf. Rm 3, 21-22)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Each year, on the occasion of Lent, the Church invites us to a sincere review of our life in light of the teachings of the Gospel. This year, I would like to offer you some reflections on the great theme of justice, beginning from the Pauline affirmation: "The justice of God has been manifested through faith in Jesus Christ" (cf. Rm 3, 21-22)...

At the heart of the wisdom of Israel, we find a profound link between faith in God who "lifts the needy from the ash heap" (Ps 113,7) and justice towards one's neighbor. The Hebrew word itself that indicates the virtue of justice, *sedaqah*, expresses this well. *Sedaqah*, in fact, signifies on the one hand full acceptance of the will of the God of Israel; on the other hand, equity in relation to one's neighbor (cf. Ex 20, 12-17), especially the poor, the stranger, the orphan and the widow (cf. Dt 10, 18-19). But the two meanings are linked because giving to the poor for the Israelite is none other than restoring what is owed to God, who had pity on the misery of His people. It was not by chance that the gift to Moses of the tablets of the Law on Mount Sinai took place after the crossing of the Red Sea. Listening to the Law presupposes faith in God who first "heard the cry" of His people and "came down to deliver them out of hand of the Egyptians" (cf. Ex 3,8). God is attentive to the cry of the poor and in return asks to be listened to: He asks for justice towards the poor (cf. Sir 4,4-5, 8-9), the stranger (cf. Ex 22,20), the slave (cf. Dt 15, 12-18). In order to enter into justice, it is thus necessary to leave that illusion of self-sufficiency, the profound state of closure, which is the very origin of injustice. In other words, what is needed is an even deeper "exodus" than that accomplished by God with Moses, a liberation of the heart, which the Law on its own is powerless to realize. Does man have any hope of justice then?

The Christian Good News responds positively to man's thirst for justice, as Saint Paul affirms in the Letter to the Romans: "But now the justice of God has been manifested apart from law ... the justice of God through faith in Jesus

Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction; since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, they are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as an expiation by his blood, to be received by faith" (3, 21-25). What then is the justice of Christ? Above all, it is the justice that comes from grace, where it is not man who makes amends, heals himself and others. The fact that "expiation" flows from the "blood" of Christ signifies that it is not man's sacrifices that free him from the weight of his faults, but the loving act of God who opens Himself in the extreme, even to the point of bearing in Himself the "curse" due to man so as to give in return the "blessing" due to God (cf. Gal 3, 13-14). But this raises an immediate objection: what kind of justice is this where the just man dies for the guilty and the guilty receives in return the blessing due to the just one? Would this not mean that each one receives the contrary of his "due"? In reality, here we discover divine justice, which is so profoundly different from its human counterpart. God has paid for us the price of the exchange in His Son, a price that is truly exorbitant. Before the justice of the Cross, man may rebel for this reveals how man is not a self-sufficient being, but in need of Another in order to realize himself fully. Conversion to Christ, believing in the Gospel, ultimately means this: to exit the illusion of self-sufficiency in order to discover and accept one's own need – the need of others and God, the need of His forgiveness and His friendship. So we understand how faith is altogether different from a natural, good-feeling, obvious fact: humility is required to accept that I need Another to free me from "what is mine," to give me gratuitously "what is His." This happens especially in the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. Thanks to Christ's action, we may enter into the "greatest" justice, which is that of love (cf. Rm 13, 8-10), the justice that recognizes itself in every case more a debtor than a creditor, because it has received more than could ever have been expected. Strengthened by this very experience, the Christian is moved to contribute to creating just societies, where all receive what is necessary to live according to the dignity proper to the human person and where justice is enlivened by love.

Dear brothers and sisters, Lent culminates in the Paschal Triduum, in which this year, too, we shall celebrate divine justice – the fullness of charity, gift, salvation. May this penitential season be for every Christian a time of authentic conversion and intense knowledge of the mystery of Christ, who came to fulfill every justice. With these sentiments, I cordially impart to all of you my Apostolic Blessing.

Benedict XVI, P.P.

God bless each of you for a very holy Lent

Mgr. Fay

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Prayers Are Requested for those who are ill; for vocations to the Priesthood and to the Consecrated Life; for married couples and for families; for the safe return home of the men and women in our military services; and for the repose of the souls of Wilma Perkins and the deceased members of our parish, our families and our benefactors.



Come to the Sacrament of Reconciliation This Lent

During the Season of Lent, Confessions are available here and in every parish and chapel of the Archdiocese on every Wednesday evening from 6:30-8:00 pm. May this Lent be a time for us to fulfill the great exhortation of St. Paul, “Be reconciled to God” (2Cor 5:20).

Our Increased Weekly Giving Program – This past week I sent out a reminder letter to families who have not yet responded. A few of you have mentioned to me that you did not respond, because it is very difficult for you to increase your giving at this time. Please know that I understand completely. And – please do not let this be a concern for you. I ask only that you return the response envelope you received indicating this to me, as well as the information card, so that I know you received my letter. Above all, I thank you for your faithfulness to the Sunday Eucharist and for the many other ways in which you manifest your affection and commitment to your parish. *Msgr. Fay*

Project Rachel. Do you know someone who is carrying grief and sorrow over past abortions? **Project Rachel** is the post-abortion ministry of the Catholic Church to help those dealing with the pain of abortion. **Project Rachel** will offer three “Come to the Waters” post abortion healing retreats this spring: Sunday, February 28, Saturday, March 13, and Saturday, June 5. For more information and registration for the date of your choice, contact **Project Rachel** at 508.651.3100 or help@projectrachelboston.com.

Please Remember The St. Vincent de Paul Boxes as you leave Mass today. The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 23 at 7:00 pm in the rectory.

Child Abuse Facts: In surveys of adults, one out of five women and one out of ten men reported that they were sexually molested before they were 18 years old. This means that an estimated 40 million adult survivors of child sexual abuse are living in the United States today. An estimated 9.6% of all school children will be molested by an educator or an employee of a school between kindergarten and 12th grade. Between 13 and 34% of all females will be victims of sexual assault before the age of 18, and 7 to 16% of all males will also be victimized before they are 18.

Second Anniversary Party of the Brighton Allston Heritage Museum will be on Saturday, February 27 at 2:00 pm in the Museum, 20 Chestnut Hill Avenue. All are welcome.

The Catholic Daughters will meet on Tuesday, March 2 at 6:00 pm in the Knights of Columbus Hall. This will be our Seder Supper. The cost of the Supper is \$27.00. Please contact Patricia McShane at 617-782-4784 for more information

The Knights Of Columbus will meet on Thursday, February 25 at 7:00 pm in the K of C Hall. All members are encouraged to attend. If you are interested in joining please speak to a Knight before the meeting.

CORI Forms: All parish volunteers and employees need to fill out a CORI form yearly. If you have not filled one out since July of 2009 please contact Patricia McShane at the rectory to arrange to do so.

Upcoming Parish Events

Healing Mass: Thursday, February 25 at 7:00 pm

PARISH GIVING

Parish Offertory (Feb. 13 – Feb. 14): \$6,453

**Grand Annual (to date): \$57,320
367 donors**

St. Vincent de Paul (Feb. 13 – Feb. 14): \$101.00

Thank You for Your Generosity

FEBRUARY 21, 2010

**From a Letter to the Corinthians
by St. Clement, Pope (d. 96 AD)**

Let us fix our attention on the blood of Christ and recognize how precious it is to God his Father, since it was shed for our salvation and brought the grace of repentance to all the world.

If we review the various ages of history, we will see that in every generation the Lord has offered the opportunity of repentance to any who were willing to turn to him...

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the ministers of God's grace have spoken of repentance; indeed, the Master of the whole universe himself spoke of repentance with an oath: As I live, says the Lord, I do not wish the death of the sinner but his repentance...

In other words, God wanted all his beloved ones to have the opportunity to repent and he confirmed this desire by his own almighty will. That is why we should obey his sovereign and glorious will and prayerfully entreat his mercy and kindness. We should be suppliant before him and turn to his compassion, rejecting empty works and quarrelling and jealousy which only lead to death.

Brothers and sisters, we should be humble in mind, putting aside all arrogance, pride and foolish anger. Rather, we should act in accordance with the Scriptures...Recall especially what the Lord Jesus said when he taught gentleness and forbearance. Be merciful, he said, so that you may have mercy shown to you. Forgive, so that you may be forgiven. As you treat others, so you will be treated. As you give, so you will receive. As you judge, so you will be judged. As you are kind to others, so you will be treated kindly. The measure of your giving will be the measure of your receiving.

Let these commandments and precepts strengthen us to live in humble obedience to his sacred words. As Scripture asks: Whom shall I look upon with favor except the humble, peaceful man who trembles at my words?

Sharing then in the heritage of so many vast and glorious achievements, let us hasten toward the goal of peace, set before us from the beginning. Let us keep our eyes firmly fixed on the Father and Creator of the whole universe, and hold fast to his splendid and transcendent gifts of peace and all his blessings.

FEBRUARY 21, 2010

ARISE Together in Christ

Gracious God and Father,
we enter into your presence
realizing you know us better than we know ourselves.
You know the cares and sufferings
we carry in our hearts.
You call us to holiness
and we trust you to lead us together
on our journey to be a renewed Church,
for with you all things are possible.
Create us anew in Jesus Christ your Son.
Liberate us from all that keeps us from you.
Heal us from every form of sin and violence.
Transform us to live your Word more profoundly.
Awaken us to the sacred; rebuild trust among us.
Enliven our parishes; reunite our families.
May your Holy Spirit empower us
to live as a community of love,
freed to share in your work
of recreating our world and restoring justice.
We believe you are doing something new,
calling us to arise together in Christ
to celebrate the fullness of life. Amen.

+ + + + +

LEVÁNTATE Unámonos en Cristo

Dios y Padre de infinita bondad,
acudimos a Ti sabiendo que nos conoces
mejor que nosotros mismos nos conocemos,
y sabes el peso que llevamos
en nuestro corazón.
Nos llamas a la santidad
y, porque para Ti todo es posible,
confiamos que nos guiarás unidos
por la senda que nos lleve
a ser una Iglesia renovada.
Créanos de nuevo en Jesucristo tu hijo.
Libéranos de todo lo que nos aleja de Ti.
Sánanos de toda forma
de pecado y violencia.
Transfórmanos para vivir
tu Palabra más profundamente.
Despierta en nosotros
la sed de lo sagrado.
Restaura entre nosotros la confianza.
Vivifica nuestras parroquias;
y reunifica a nuestras familias.
Que tu Espíritu Santo nos fortalezca
y nos congregue en una comunidad de amor,
liberados para servirte y continuar tu misión
de recrear el mundo y restaurar la justicia.
Creemos que haces algo nuevo,
con tu llamado a levantarnos en Cristo
para celebrar la plenitud de la vida. Amén.

Masses for the Week

Sunday, Feb. 21 – 1st Sunday of Lent

- (Sat.)** 4:00 pm Rose A. Dawson, Rose A. Flynn &
Margaret Versiackas, Mem.
7:30 am Alice G. Maher, 10th Ann.
9:30 am Remo, Teresa & Joseph Cardarelli, Mem
11:15 am Mary & John Tighe, Mem.
12:45 pm Maria Andrea Valencia, 2nd Ann.
5:00 pm *Missa pro Populo*

Mon. 5:30 pm Leone & Maria Alfano & Maria &
Vincenzo Cirigliano, Mem.

Tue. 5:30 pm Dulce, Negro & Faen German, Mem.

Wed. 7:00 am Bronislaw Malawski, 3rd Ann.

Thu. 7:00 am Dennis Davidson, Mem.

Fri. 7:00 am Joaquin Gutierrez, Mem.

Sunday, Feb. 28 – 2nd Sunday of Lent

- (Sat.)** 4:00 pm Robert Egan, 23rd Ann.
7:30 am Johanna Cecilia Murphy, 2nd Ann.
9:30 am Mary E. Tice, 1st Ann.
11:15 am *Missa pro Populo*
5:00 pm Clemente Baccari, Mem.

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Comments:
