

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the first Letter of St Peter (1 Peter 2:9)

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

Reflection – You are a kingly people, a priestly people, a chosen people, God's special possession

You did not choose Me, but I chose you (cf. John 15:16). Out of the billions of people living on this earth, the Lord calls each of us individually by name to follow Him. It does not mean we are better or holier than the person next to us who do not believe in Christ and has no time for Him. The Lord does everything out of His love and infinite wisdom. The Lord wants everyone to be saved. We cherish His call and we know that it is only by His grace that we can rise and respond to His call. As a result of our faith and knowledge, we seek the Lord as if a parched deer seeks running water. It is the Lord Himself who calls us out of the darkness of our soul into His wonderful, uncreated light.

We share Christ's divine mission. *Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you (Matthew 28:19-20).* Before Jesus ascends into heaven, He commissions all His disciples to bring His Kingdom into every heart on the face of this earth. This commissioning by the Lord is repeated to us by the priest at the end of every Mass. Through His commissioning, Jesus makes every disciple of His a sharer of His divine mission to save every soul. Our Catholic Church Catechism teaches us that by Baptism, we are incorporated into Christ and made sharers in the priestly, prophetic and kingly office of Christ and each has its own part to play in the mission of the Church and in the world (cf. CCC 897).

We share Christ's priestly office. We share the priestly office of Christ when we unite to Christ our prayers and sacrifices for other people. Loving Christ means sharing His concern for the welfare and salvation of every sinner in the world. As He dedicates His entire life to this mission, we too should walk in His footsteps and draw many souls to Jesus especially through our prayers and sacrifices. **We share Christ's prophetic office.** We share the prophetic office of Christ when we impart His Good News to others around us through the way we live good Christian lives, in what we say, think and do. **We share Christ's kingly office.** We share the kingly office of Christ when we help expand God's Kingdom by helping Jesus snatch souls from the spirit of darkness. Thus, Jesus reminds us: *Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life (John 6:27).* Is there a calling higher than helping Christ save souls? *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10).* God has a divine purpose for every life.

We are God's special possession and His delight. Do we sometimes feel overwhelmed by our weaknesses? St Paul tells us God uses our human weakness to manifest His power. *But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9).* God, unlike us, is not bounded by time or space. Being the Eternal Now, He can see the end-product of the power of His love in us. *And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18).* *For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed (Romans 8:19).* Yes, and what a revelation it will be! We will be transformed into our true selves and become like copies of Christ, and revel in the love, joy and wonder of God as His holy sons and daughters, co-heirs of Jesus in His glorious Kingdom to come. God will be our eternal delight, and He is happy to make us His delight (cf. Zephaniah 3:17) and special possession (cf. 1 Peter 2:9).

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, thank You for giving me a part in Your divine mission to bring every soul to the glorious eternal inheritance God has planned for each of His children. Every soul has a unique role to play in this mission. No role is too small to be unimportant. God is happy to make His plan of salvation dependent on the 'fiat' of Mary, yet Mary's role, though indispensable to the plan of salvation, is a hidden one. Teach me to live a full Christian life, so that I can rise and respond to Your calling. Help me establish God's Kingdom in my own heart first. Fill me with all the graces I need so that I can seek first the Kingdom of God, then all things I need will be given me as well (cf. Matthew 6:33). You died so as to extend the promise of eternal life to all children of God. Give me Your love and concern for souls so that my heart can be filled with Your passion and zeal for God's Kingdom. Mary, Mother of Salvation and the Perfect Disciple of Jesus, pray for me that I may rise up and take my place in the Army of Christ. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.