



Scripture nugget – Practising our Baptismal Priesthood

But you are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of His own, so that you may announce the praises” of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9).

By Baptism we share in the priesthood of Christ, in His prophetic and royal mission (cf. CCC 1268). Thus, in God’s Kingdom, through Baptism, we are priests, prophets and kings! These are specific roles given to each baptized Christian to build up God’s Kingdom on earth. Our baptismal or common priesthood by way of our Baptism is different but complimentary to the ministerial priesthood of ordained priests by way of Holy Orders. The key task of a priest is to offer sacrifices to God for the people. In the Old Testament era, the priests offered animal sacrifices to atone for the sins of the people and that of themselves. These cannot take away any sin; they are just a token of repentance of the people. When Jesus came, He offered on Calvary the Sacrifice of His own Body and Blood as a sin offering to the Heavenly Father for the sins of the world, once and for all. Only the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ can take away sins. The Holy Mass is a re-presentation of Christ’s Sacrifice on Calvary, albeit in a non-bloody, sacramental way. It is the one same Sacrifice.

I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship (Romans 12:1). There are many things we can do to exercise our baptismal priesthood. We offer prayers and sacrifices for the welfare especially eternal salvation of other people, our brothers and sisters in Christ especially those near and dear to us. The whole life of a Christian living out his faith daily becomes a living sacrifice. Through the Holy Mass, we can unite to Christ’s Sacrifice our whole lives: body, soul, spirit and all our sufferings, crosses, good deeds and even our sins and defects. Thus, during the Offertory we unite our own offerings to the wine and bread so that at Consecration our offerings may become like that of Christ in God’s eyes: meritorious, redemptive and infinite in value! Through the Mass, Christ gives us the grace of self-surrender. He teaches us how to give our whole selves to God, always in union with Him. As we are members of Christ’s Body, we can expand our offering to include all human lives, sufferings and crosses. What a powerful, sanctifying effect on the world if every one of the estimated 1.2 billion Catholics does this simple consecration at Mass!

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, Eternal High Priest, thank You for raising me up to be a priest, prophet and king in Your glorious Kingdom. Please accept my life from its conception till its last day as a living sacrifice united to Your Sacrifice on Calvary for the atonement of all sins especially my own. Through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I consecrate to You my mind and all minds. Please purify all minds of all things that are not of God, and fill all minds with God’s light, truth, knowledge, understanding, wisdom and discernment. Through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I consecrate to You my heart and all hearts. Please purify all hearts of anything unholy, and flood all hearts with peace and ardent love of God and what God stands for. Through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I consecrate to You my soul and all souls. Please flood our souls with the Holy Spirit to consume all iniquities and ignite the fire of the Holy Spirit in our souls. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for us. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.