

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Letter of St Paul to the Colossians (*Colossians 1:24*)

Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of His Body, which is the Church. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

Reflection – Christ needs our help in saving and sanctifying souls

Christ's redemption and salvation through His own Blood is final and full. *In Him we have redemption through His Blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace (Ephesians 1:7).* Through His life, Passion, death and resurrection, Christ has won for us all the graces we need for salvation. God offers salvation to everyone as a free gift won by Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. God does not force His salvation on sinners even though He, as Father wants all His children to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth (cf. 1 Timothy 2:4). Gifted with free will, we have to decide for ourselves and determine our final destination. There is no other God other than the Holy Trinity God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, our God (cf. Deuteronomy 4.35, 4.39; Isaiah 45.5).

The Church is in communion with Jesus. From the very beginning Jesus associates very closely with His disciples, sharing with them His life and Passion and revealing to them the mysteries of the Kingdom of God. To emphasize the close communion Jesus says: *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing."* (*John 15:5*). This culminates in the giving of His own Body and Blood as our spiritual food during the Last Supper when Jesus instituted the priesthood and Mass. *Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood remains in Me, and I in them (John 5:56).*

The Church is the mystical Body of Christ. When Christ ascended into heaven, He did not leave His followers orphans. He promises to be with us till the end of time. He sends His Spirit, the Spirit of Truth. *By communicating His Spirit, Christ made His brothers, called together from all nations, mystically the components of His own Body. In that Body the life of Christ is poured into the believers who, through the sacraments, are united in a hidden and real way to Christ who suffered and was glorified (Lumen Gentium 7). We are members of His Body (cf. Ephesians 5:30).*

We are now the eyes, mouths, hands and feet of Jesus Christ in continuing His mission in the salvation and sanctification of souls. Not matter how insignificant we may be in the Church, each member is needed for the proper functioning of the entire mystical body. *The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" (1 Corinthians 12:21).*

We share in the divine mission of Christ. Through our Baptism we share in the *priestly vocation* of Christ, His *prophetic office* and *royal office* (cf. CCC 783-786). We are a priestly, prophetic, and royal people set aside to serve God. God, in His total dominion over everything and to whom nothing is impossible, could have brought about the process of salvation by Himself without our participation. But in His infinite wisdom He has gifted each of us different talents so that even the most insignificant soul can have a unique part to offer in God's universal plan of salvation. *There is only one Spirit who, according to His own richness and the needs of the ministries, gives His different gifts for the welfare of the Church (CCC 791).*

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, not only do You offer me Your redemption and salvation full and final, but You also invite me to participate in Your universal plan of salvation. Though I am an insignificant soul, You have gifted me with unique gifts so that my role in Your divine mission is unique, which no one else can fulfil. Give me a burning zeal for God's Kingdom, and through my prayers, suffering and the offer of my entire self, united to Your sacrifice on Calvary repeated by thousands of Masses offered daily throughout the world, may I bring many souls to You. In this battle for souls, help me fight valiantly like a true child of God would. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus. www.twoheart5.hk