

Scripture Reading

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

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. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

Reflection – Our Mission as Priest, Prophet and King

We have a share in Christ's divine mission. Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He entrusted to us His salvific mission: *Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you (Matthew 28:20)*. In this **Last Great Commissioning**, Jesus commands us to bring His Good News and salvation to all people. Thus, bringing the Good News of Jesus to souls is not an option for us but a divine command. It is not a command only for the ordained priests but also for us, the laity (cf. Luke 10:1-11). Accordingly, through Baptism and Confirmation we are given a share in Christ's priestly, prophetic and kingly mission for establishing God's Kingdom on earth (cf. CCC 897-913). Thus, enshrined within the fundamental call to personal holiness is the call to sanctify the people and the world around us.

We are a royal priesthood (cf. 1 Peter 2:9). Jesus is our Eternal High Priest Who offers His once and for all Sacrifice on Calvary to the Father in atonement for the sins of humanity. We the baptized share in the priesthood of Christ. A priest offers prayers and sacrifices to God for the salvation of souls and the glory of His Name. We, the laity, fulfill our role in our common baptismal priesthood in a number of ways. On a daily basis, we fulfill our role as we accept and endure patiently the many hardships that are part and parcel of our everyday life in our work and family life. In union with the great Sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary, we offer ourselves as a **living sacrifice to God**. *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)*. Thus, we consecrate our entire self and all aspects of our life to God: our body, mind and soul, our work, relaxation, family life, sufferings, trials, joy, sorrows, prayers, sacrifices and apostolic endeavours. Hence, what God desires most from us is the spiritual offering of our entire selves, including our will. God has given us His all and He desires that we offer our all. In response we surrender all to God.

We, the laity consecrate the world to God! *And so, worshipping everywhere by their holy actions, the laity consecrate the world itself to God, everywhere offering worship by the holiness of their lives (CCC 901)*. We, the laity in our common baptismal priesthood have a role to complement that of the ordained ministerial priests. During Eucharistic Celebration (Mass) in spirit we bring, as spiritual sacrifices, during the Offertory and unite with the bread and wine on the altar our entire lives especially our sufferings and sacrifices including that of other souls living on earth. During the Offertory, in silent prayer we beseech God that upon Consecration what we offered as spiritual sacrifices will become meritorious, redemptive and infinite in value like that of the Sacrifice of Christ on Calvary and that all souls will be transformed to be Christ-like. Thus, Mass is the ideal opportunity for us laity to exercise our role in our common baptismal priesthood. Though hidden, depending on our faith, it can have great effects on the salvation of souls as the action unites human lives and sufferings to the holiness of Christ's Supreme Sacrifice on Calvary. Such is the hidden power of the Mass! *And, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:5)*.

We share the kingship of Christ. Through His obedience unto death, Christ gives to His disciples royal freedom so that through the self-denial of a holy life, they can overcome the reign of sin in themselves (cf. CCC 908). Through His life, death and resurrection, Jesus gives us all the graces we need to live a holy life, to walk in His footsteps, to sanctify the world around us and to help win souls for the glorious Kingdom of God. To conquer the kingdom of darkness, we are called to serve others in Christ. *Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28)*. The greatest charitable act we can do to anyone is to put them on the road to salvation.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, through Baptism and Confirmation, You give me a unique share in Your priestly, prophetic and kingly mission in the establishment of Your Kingdom on earth. Share with me Your great love for souls. Give me a deeper understanding of the truths of my faith and a lion's share of godly wisdom. Make me holy and may my whole life be in union with You and a holy and living sacrifice pleasing to You. Fire up my soul with a great zeal for Your Kingdom. May I rise up to my mission like a true child of God who will not be afraid to go all out to fight for my Father's Kingdom. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus. www.twohearts.hk