

Social Justice Sunday Liturgy Notes

September 27, 2009

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Social Justice Sunday Statement 2009

Title: *And You Will Be My Witnesses: Young people and justice*

Overview:

During World Youth Day 2008, young people of the world gathered in Sydney to celebrate their faith in the presence of Pope Benedict XVI. During that week we saw how the Holy Spirit inspires a commitment to justice in young people. In this year's Social Justice Sunday Statement, the Catholic Bishops of Australia support young people's commitment to social justice and reassert the central theme of World Youth Day:

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses. (Acts 1:8)

Australia saw thousands of young Christians inspired by the Holy Spirit, yet many young people are marginalised, excluded and deprived of dignity.

The Bishops recall the challenge of Pope Benedict – 'What will you leave to the next generation? What difference will you make?' – and present it again to all Australians, young and old.

Liturgy Notes

The following notes may be of use to link the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time with Social Justice Sunday 2009.

Welcome

Today is Social Justice Sunday. To commemorate this day, the Australian Catholic Bishops have published a Social Justice Sunday Statement, titled: *And You Will Be My Witnesses: Young people and justice*. The Statement reminds us that it is the Holy Spirit that inspires a commitment to justice in young people, yet many young people are marginalised, excluded and deprived of dignity.

Today, as we listen to the Word of God which reminds us of our obligation to the poor, and as we gather for Eucharist and give thanks for the saving presence of Christ who died for all, let us be renewed in our commitment to be Christ's witnesses in the world.

Readings

The Readings for 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time can be linked with the concept of social justice. Being committed to social justice is about living in relationship with God and living a life of influence for good. It is about recognising and respecting the human dignity of all people.

Numbers 11: 25-29

Joshua complains to Moses that the gift of prophecy had been given to many. Moses does not take offence, but wishes that all the people would prophecy.

Psalms 18: 8, 10, 12-14

Response: The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

James 5: 1- 6

James speaks harsh words to those who are wealthy, living in comfort and luxury, and unwilling to share their possessions with those in need.

Mark 9: 38-43, 45, 47-48

True disciples of Jesus will follow him without compromise, eradicating from their lives anything that gets in the way. Discipleship challenges us to change personally and to work with others to proclaim the kingdom of God.

Homily Notes

The Spirit can gift all people of good will, including those who do not know Jesus Christ or who do not recognise him as the Son of God. Moses wished that all the people would prophesy. Similarly, Jesus is not offended by people working miracles in his name.

Witnessing to the Gospel and working for justice encourages others to examine their lives and values, inspiring women and men to turn to Christ and to the service of others.

Wealth is condemned if it is the fruit of injustice. As Christians, we are stewards of our gifts and our possessions, ready to share what we have with others. As Australians, we are stewards of a nation blessed with freedom and rich in resources and opportunities.

Prayer of the Faithful

One or more of the following could be added.

- God, may we understand the call to share what we have and to work for the common good.
- God, bring peace to those places where there is the constant threat of violence and discord.
- God, may Australia continue to be blessed with freedom, good leadership and responsible citizens.
- God, inspire us to walk with our Indigenous sisters and brothers on the journey towards reconciliation and justice.
- God, may we understand the call to share what we have and to work for the common good.
- God, may our Christian communities and parishes deepen their responsibility towards people who are homeless, families in distress and the working poor.
- God, may the gospel challenge to be the good news resonate in our hearts and our actions.

The Eucharistic Prayer

- For Masses for various needs and occasions
D. Jesus the Compassion of God
- For Reconciliation I
- For Reconciliation II

For the Parish Bulletin

We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on 27 September. This year's Social Justice Sunday Statement is titled: *And You Will Be My Witnesses: Young people and justice*. During World Youth Day 2008, Australia saw thousands of young Christians inspired by the Holy Spirit. Yet many young people are marginalised, excluded and deprived of dignity. The Bishops recall the challenge of Pope Benedict – 'What will you leave to the next generation? What difference will you make?' – and present it again to all Australians, young and old.

For further details about the Catholic Bishops' Statement, visit the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council website (www.acsjc.org.au) or call (02) 8306 3499