



## OPENING

Leader: Let us begin by putting ourselves in the most Holy Presence of our Lord, ☩ in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us begin by calling to mind our sins and asking for forgiveness.

All: **I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do; and I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin, all the angels and saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

Leader: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, help us to prepare our hearts and our minds over the next month for the coming of World Youth Days in Toronto, that this event will set us on fire with the love of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING (1 Cor 9:16-23, NAB)

Reader: A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

*If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast, for an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it! If I but unwillingly, then I have been entrusted with a stewardship. What then is my recompense? That, when I preach, I offer the gospel free of charge so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. Although I am free in regard to all, I have made myself a slave to all so as to win over as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew to win over Jews; to those under the law I became like one under the law – though I myself am not under the law – to win over those under the law. To those outside the law I became like one outside the law – though I am not outside God's law but within the law of Christ – to win over those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak. I have become all things to all, to save at least some. All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may have a share in it.*

The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSE: **Here I am Lord, I come to do your will.**

Leader: I am the Lord, I have called you to serve the cause of right. R.  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you. R.  
I have given you as a covenant to the people, as light to the nations. R.  
I am sending you to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. R.



GOSPEL (Mt 28:18-20, NAB)

Reader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, Lord.**

*Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.*

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Leader: Let us now take a few minutes to reflect on the readings and the attached catechism passage.

DISCUSSION

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: United in Christ, let us pray for all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Reader: For the Holy Father, that he may continue to lead the pilgrim Church with vigour and vitality. We pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

For the Church and its mission to proclaim Jesus as Saviour, that World Youth Day 2002 may be the advent of a new evangelism among all people, we pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

That the seventeenth World Youth Day may be for us an experience of the mission of the Church, the sign of God's kingdom. We pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

That we may be inspired to a deeper commitment to unity for all Christians in faith, hope and love, and to justice for all in the world, we pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

For the success of World Youth Days and that all pilgrims may grow in the love of God and be able to share it with the world. We pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

That we may ever be attentive to those in need, that we will recognize Jesus in the hearts of everyone. We pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

For any other intentions we may have this day. We pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**



Leader: Let us call upon Mary, Mother of God and our Spiritual Mother to intercede for us:

All: **Hail Mary, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

#### LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: And let us now pray in the words Jesus Himself has taught us:

All: **Our Father, who art in Heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

#### SIGN OF THE CROSS

Leader: Jesus said "I leave you peace, my peace I give you". May He grant us the peace and unity of His kingdom where He lives for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The cross symbolizes all of salvation history, everything that God did for us in order to win our souls. Let us now offer each other a sign of peace by tracing a cross on each other's forehead as a gesture reflecting our desire to have the Cross planted deeply within our minds and our hearts in order to help us announce to the world the self-giving love of Christ.

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

Loving God, you care for us more than we can ever imagine, and you are always near for those who seek you. Bless us who are about to begin a pilgrimage, to join other youth from all over the world and to celebrate our life in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church. Guide us on our way, be our companion and bring us safely to our destination. Fill us with the splendour of holiness that our lives may bear witness to the power of Your Son's resurrection. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

May almighty God bless us, the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit ☩ and hear our prayers for a safe journey. **Amen.**



## CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

### Mission - a requirement of the Church's catholicity

**849** *The missionary mandate.* "Having been divinely sent to the nations that she might be 'the universal sacrament of salvation,' the Church, in obedience to the command of her founder and because it is demanded by her own essential universality, strives to preach the Gospel to all men": "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; and Lo, I am with you always, until the close of the age."

**850** *The origin and purpose of mission.* The Lord's missionary mandate is ultimately grounded in the eternal love of the Most Holy Trinity: "The Church on earth is by her nature missionary since, according to the plan of the Father, she has as her origin the mission of the Son and the Holy Spirit." The ultimate purpose of mission is none other than to make men share in the communion between the Father and the Son in their Spirit of love.

**851** *Missionary motivation.* It is from God's love for all men that the Church in every age receives both the obligation and the vigor of her missionary dynamism, "for the love of Christ urges us on." Indeed, God "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth"; that is, God wills the salvation of everyone through the knowledge of the truth. Salvation is found in the truth. Those who obey the prompting of the Spirit of truth are already on the way of salvation. But the Church, to whom this truth has been entrusted, must go out to meet their desire, so as to bring them the truth. Because she believes in God's universal plan of salvation, the Church must be missionary.

**852** *Missionary paths.* The Holy Spirit is the protagonist, "the principal agent of the whole of the Church's mission." It is he who leads the Church on her missionary paths. "This mission continues and, in the course of history, unfolds the mission of Christ, who was sent to evangelize the poor; so the Church, urged on by the Spirit of Christ, must walk the road Christ himself walked, a way of poverty and obedience, of service and self-sacrifice even to death, a death from which he emerged victorious by his resurrection." So it is that "the blood of martyrs is the seed of Christians."

**853** *On her pilgrimage,* the Church has also experienced the "discrepancy existing between the message she proclaims and the human weakness of those to whom the Gospel has been entrusted." Only by taking the "way of penance and renewal," the "narrow way of the cross," can the People of God extend Christ's reign. For "just as Christ carried out the work of redemption in poverty and oppression, so the Church is called to follow the same path if she is to communicate the fruits of salvation to men."

**854** *By her very mission,* "the Church . . . travels the same journey as all humanity and shares the same earthly lot with the world: she is to be a leaven and, as it were, the soul of human society in its renewal by Christ and transformation into the family of God." Missionary endeavor requires patience. It begins with the proclamation of the Gospel to peoples and groups who do not yet believe in Christ, continues with the establishment of Christian communities that are "a sign of God's presence in the world," and leads to the foundation of local churches. It must involve a process of inculturation if the Gospel is to take flesh in each people's culture. There will be times of defeat. "With regard to individuals, groups, and peoples it is only by degrees that [the Church] touches and penetrates them and so receives them into a fullness which is Catholic."

**855** *The Church's mission stimulates efforts towards Christian unity.* Indeed, "divisions among Christians prevent the Church from realizing in practice the fullness of catholicity proper to her in those of her sons who, though joined to her by Baptism, are yet separated from full communion with her. Furthermore, the Church herself finds it more difficult to express in actual life her full catholicity in all its aspects."

**856** *The missionary task implies a respectful dialogue* with those who do not yet accept the Gospel. Believers can profit from this dialogue by learning to appreciate better "those elements of truth and grace which are found among peoples, and which are, as it were, a secret presence of God." They proclaim the Good News to those who do not know it, in order to consolidate, complete, and raise up the truth and the goodness that God has distributed among men and nations, and to purify them from error and evil "for the glory of God, the confusion of the demon, and the happiness of man."