

Incarnating THE KERYGMA

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE KERYGMA

Opening Prayer

Father, you constantly show us the depth of your love, most especially through the sending of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for our salvation. May you help us to encounter His presence with us now through the guidance of your Holy Spirit, so that as we hear of this Good News, we may be filled with hope and joy. We ask this through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading *Luke 24:13-35*

Luke provides the account of two disciples' experience with Risen Lord on the road to Emmaus. In this encounter, Jesus models the proclamation of the kerygma in revealing the Gospel message to the disciples along the road, inviting them to experience His true presence in the Eucharist, and giving them the opportunity to witness to His Resurrection to the Apostles in Jerusalem.

What is the Kerygma?

- **Kerygma** comes from the Greek word for a herald, who is an official messenger bringing good news. The core message of the kerygma or the Good News of the Church is Jesus' death and Resurrection.
- Pope Francis states that "nothing is more solid, profound, secure, meaningful, and wisdom-filled than [the kerygma]. All Christian formation consists of entering more deeply into the Kerygma" (*EG*, §165).
- Pope Francis summarizes the kerygma in three great truths: "God loves you; Christ is your Savior; he is alive!" (*CV*, §130). This core message of the Gospel is the reason and meaning behind everything we proclaim, study, share, and believe.
- The kerygma is "the foundational experience of encounter with God through Christ's death and resurrection" (*CV*, §213). Therefore, "the kerygma is simultaneously an *act of proclamation* and the content of the proclamation itself, which unveils the Gospel and makes it present" (*DC*, §58).
- Any Christian formation cannot simply impart knowledge for its own sake, but must serve to deepen a relationship with the Lord.
- A Catholic cannot become a dynamic disciple if he or she is not introduced to the person of Christ or does not hear the proclamation applied to daily life.

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How do I know God loves me?

- No matter who you are, God loves you as a caring Father in a personal and unconditional way for who you are. You are a child of God made in His image.
- God wants us to experience His love. God has invited us into a personal relationship and loving communion with Him, as children and friends.
- "God's love endures forever, his faithfulness lasts through every age" (Psalm 100:5).
- "Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even if she forget, [God] will never forget you. Though the mountains leave their place and the hills be shaken, [God's] love shall never leave you nor [His] covenant of peace be shaken" (Isaiah 49:15, 54:10).
- "Thus says the Lord, who created you and formed you: Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. You are precious in my eyes and glorious because I love you. Fear not, for I am with you" (Isaiah 43:1, 5).

How do we respond to God's love?

- God is always faithful in His love and continues to show His love, but we cannot experience the love of God and salvation in Jesus fully because sin alienates and separates us from God.
- In Genesis, man and woman rejected the tree of life and preferred the nourishment of the tree of knowledge. They did not want God's guidance and chose to walk on their own.
- As a result, fear, shame, hate, violence, and death entered the world, creating an alienation and division within humanity and through creation.
- Our relationship with God is also affected by sin. We can experience addictions and attachments to false idols, including the sense of a life without meaning.
- Social sin also affects our relationships between nations and groups where we live in a culture of death.

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What is God's solution for the problem of sin?

- The solution is Jesus Christ. "There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved" (Acts 4:12).
- "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish, but might have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him" (John 3:16-17).
- "The glory of God is man fully alive" (St. Irenaeus).
- Jesus Himself is the first proclaimer of the Kerygma of the Good News through his preaching and through his works, most especially His death and resurrection.
- Christ has died for you on the cross. He has shed His blood for you. He rose again so that you might be a new creation and have abundant life.

How do we sustain that relationship with God?

- To sustain the relationship with God, we must always ask for forgiveness and must always forgive others. We must realize we are constantly on a process of conversion.
- We must reject the works of Satan and let go of grudges, resentments, and hatred.
- It is important to move from a Christianity simply reduced to a religion of external practices, restrictive morality, or a theory of concepts. We must move to an intimate relationship with the person of Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit guides us to relationship with Christ and offers us four ways to persevere:
 - **Community:** We are brothers and sisters in Christ to help us keep our eyes set on the goal: the community of heaven.
 - **Word of God & Catechesis:** We must hear God speaking to us through His word and desire to learn more about Him out of love for Him.
 - **Prayer:** We must be in conversation with God through personal prayer as well as the prayer of the community.
 - **Eucharist:** The Eucharist allows us to actualize and experience Jesus' death and resurrection in a real way. The sacrifice of the cross is perpetuated through the celebration of the Eucharist in anticipation of heaven.
- It is always a struggle to maintain the relationship with Jesus. It requires us to take up our cross daily and follow Jesus. The cross we carry must be offered in love out of love for Christ and for others. The Christian message calls us to a way of life.

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Discussion Questions for Learning

1. What does the word kerygma mean? How is the kerygma both a verb and a noun?
2. What is the core message of the kerygma? Why is it important to apply the kerygma to all of the teachings of the faith and to daily life?
3. What are the four ways we can persevere in our relationship with God?

Discussion Questions for Living

1. How can focusing on the kerygma help us move from simply a religion of external practices, restrictive morality, or a theory of concepts to an intimate relationship with Jesus?
2. Community is an important way to persevere in relationship with God. How can I get involved in my faith community to deepen my relationship with God?

Discussion Questions for Liturgy

1. How can I communicate with God my gratitude for His love, most especially His death and resurrection in my prayer life?
2. Prayer and the Eucharist are two other important ways to persevere in relationship with God. How is prayer and the Eucharist a preparation for heaven?

Discussion Questions for evangelization

1. The process of kerygma is about deepening relationship with Jesus Christ. Having had some encounter already with Jesus, how am I willing to share that experience with others?

Closing Prayer

Holy Spirit, you guide us to relationship with Christ and offer us four ways to persevere this relationship. We ask you to inspire our minds and hearts to seek out the community of the Church, to study the Word of God, to embrace a spirit of prayer, and to maintain an attitude of thanksgiving that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ through our way of life and commitment to the Gospel. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.