

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

A THOUGHT FOR SUNDAY

Ephpheta - *be thou opened.*” We see this same action of Our Lord in the miracle today during the baptism ceremony, where the priest will moisten his thumb and bless the ears and nose of the child being baptized. Then he continues addressing Satan: “*..but as to you devil, begone! The judgement of God has come.*”

On the one hand, we can ask why is it that Our Divine Master needs to work - to do these actions, in order to perform the miracle? On the other hand it impresses on us a mystery: if Christ has opened our souls to His Grace, expressed by this exterior action of the *ephpheta*, who dares to close them?

Yet it is sad that many souls, after having renounced Satan with his pomps and works, and having received the grace of baptism, then turn away, embracing Satan, his pomps and his works once again.

Let us pray for these souls. Some of them we know - some are within our own family. If God opens our souls to His grace, the only person that can close that door is ourself. Not the devil, not our friends (or should I say “friends”), no, we are the only ones who can close the door to our soul that God has opened.

Sadly however, many people do.

*God bless you,
Fr Fryar*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 25th (this Friday) is the Feast of St Genesisus, the patron of the FSSP of LA community. We will offer a High Mass at St Victor's at the usual 7 pm time. The Mass propers will be taken from the Common of Martyrs Laetabitur Iustus, since his feast is not observed on the main sanctoral calendar.

Saturday August 26th, at the usual 9 AM Mass at St. Victor's, we will have a special Mass of the Holy Ghost for homeschooling families, asking the His assistance as we begin the new school year. More info soon, but mark your calendars and spread the word!

LIFE OF ST GENESIUS BY FR FRANCIS XAVIER WENINGER SJ

At the time of the Emperor Dioclesian, the world renowned enemy of the Christians, there lived at Rome a celebrated pagan actor and juggler, named Genesisus. His conduct was licentious and insolent. He hated the Christians most profoundly, and was devoted, heart and soul, to idolatry. Knowing that he could not please the Emperor better than by ridiculing the Christians, and by shamelessly imitating all their mysteries, he resolved, one day, to represent baptism, with all its ceremonies, as ludicrously as possible. To this effect he made himself well acquainted with all that takes place at holy baptism, appointed the parts, and explained to those who were to act, what they were to do. It was his ambition to make this holy sacrament as contemptible as was in his power. The day of representation came; the Emperor, his whole court, and a great many people were present. The comedy began; Genesisus acted the principal part. Feigning to be sick, he lay down, calling to his friends to bring him something to relieve his suffering. When they had done as he requested, he said that as he felt he had soon to die, he would become a Christian, and they should baptize him. Everything was brought upon the stage that was used at baptism, and all the questions were put to him which are made to those who are to be baptized. In fact, the entire ceremony was performed, but in so ludicrous a manner, that the Emperor and all the people shouted with laughter.

HYMNS

AT ST. VICTOR'S 7PM

PROCESSIONAL:
CHOIR


MASS BEGINS ON:
PAGE 570

PROPERS:
PAGE 356

CREDO:
#780

RECESSIONAL:
#861
TO CHRIST,
THE PRINCE OF PEACE

PLEASE REMEMBER
TO RETURN THE HYMNALS
TO THE HYMNAL RACK AT
THE BACK OF THE CHURCH.
GOD REWARD YOU!



But, oh! incomprehensible prodigy! oh! great mercy of God ! At the moment when the wanton pagan actors scoffed and blasphemed the holy sacrament of the true Church, the Almighty touched the heart of Genesisius and illumined it with a ray of His divine com passion. Suddenly, an entire change took place in the actor, and he loudly and earnestly proclaimed himself a Christian. His companions, not knowing what had happened, continued the blasphemous mockery. When the whole ceremony was performed, they threw over Genesisius a white robe in derision of the garment usually given to the newly-converted and baptized, and thus clothed they presented him to the people amidst great hilarity.

But Genesisius, already a true believer in Christ, turned to the Emperor and other spectators, and confessed, with great dignity, what had taken place within him. He declared solemnly, that until that day, blinded by idolatry, he had scoffed and derided Christianity, and therefore proposed to represent baptism on the stage, for the amusement of the people. During the sacrilegious performance, his heart had suddenly changed and, desiring to become a Christian, he had received baptism with this desire. He said that he had seen the heavens open, and perceived a hand that touched him, when the baptismal water was poured over him. He further stated that before they had baptized him, he had seen an angel, with a book in which all his past iniquities had been recorded, who assured him that they would all be washed away by holy baptism, and that, in fact, he had, after the ceremony, seen that all his vices had been obliterated from its pages. After relating this, he added that he renounced idolatry, and believing that Jesus Christ was the son of the Almighty, and the Redeemer of the world, he would, hence forth, live and die a Christian. In conclusion, he exhorted the Emperor and all present, to follow his example and worship the only true God.

They all thought, at first, that Genesisius was jesting, but when they perceived that he was in earnest, the Emperor became enraged at his noble and frank confession, and gave immediate orders that his garments should be torn from him, and that he should be whipped with scourges and clubs, before all the people, and then be cast into prison. Plautian, the prefect, received orders to renew this punishment daily, until Genesisius would abandon his new faith.

The first order was executed without delay, and Plautian was only too punctual in the accomplishment of the second. The holy confessor was stretch ed upon the rack, torn with iron hooks, and burned with torches. " Miserable man!" called the Prefect to him, while he was thus suffering, "submit to the imperial command, and sacrifice to the gods, that you may save your life, and find grace." The holy martyr replied : "Your Emperor is but a mortal man ; whoever desires the favor of such, may seek it of him. I pray to the immortal King of heaven and earth, and will never forsake Him. I know that He, who received me in holy baptism, is the true King, and I repent for having so often derided and offended Him. I will not obey Dioclesian, whose reign will soon be over, and who will one day become as naught. You may torture me, therefore, as much as you like; I will remain faithful to my God. If you had the power to kill me a hundred times, you would not be able to take Him out of my heart or my mouth." Plautian, provoked at his fearlessness reported his words to the Emperor, who ordered him to beheaded, which sentence was accordingly executed, in the year of our Lord 303 ; and thus St. Genesisius, who from an idolater, had become a Christian, and from a scoffer of Christianity, a fearless confessor of the Savior, received the crown of martyrdom.

THE PRIESTLY FRATERNITY
OF ST. PETER IN LOS ANGELES

FSSP.LA

MASS TIMES

CONFESSIONS 30 MIN BEFORE EACH MASS

SAN FELIPE CHAPEL
738 N. GERAGHTY AVE
LOS ANGELES CA 90063

ST. VICTOR'S CHURCH
8634 HOLLOWAY DR
W. HOLLYWOOD CA 90069

SUNDAY 10:00 AM

MONDAY 7:00 PM

Followed by potluck and conference

FIRST FRIDAY - 7:00 PM

SUNDAY 7:00 PM HIGH MASS

TUES & FRI - 7:00 PM

MON, WED & THURS
6:45 AM

SATURDAY 9:00 AM

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