

SIMBANG GABI

Thursday, Dec. 16, 2004

Rituals for the day: 1. "Panuluyan" (Search for an Inn) used in Entrance and Penitential Rites
2. Presentation of gifts different families

PRELUDE: Introduction: explanation of PANULUYAN is read before the liturgy

Commentator: PANULUYAN (Search for an Inn)

Through five centuries of Christianization, the faith of the Filipinos has been sustained mostly by their popular religiosity. A people that respond most effectively to dramatization, symbols and rituals that they have kept and updated through the years. One perfect example of this form of popular religiosity is the "Panuluyan" [Search for an inn] . This tradition is succinctly described in the book "The Liturgical Renewal in the Philippines" by Anscar J. Chupungco, OSB as follows:

"The Filipino religious tradition of the "Panuluyan" is celebrated in many towns on the Eve of Christmas. The "Panuluyan" group, made up of town people, two of them acting as Joseph and Mary (in some cases, they just carry statues of Joseph and Mary) , goes around the town, re-enacting the Christmas scene as written by St. Luke and there was no room for them in the inn.' Usually the procession ends up in front of the church at midnight."

Unknown to many of us, Panuluyan - the Posada of the Mexican community - was introduced to the Philippines with Misa de Gallo by Mexican missionaries in the 16th Century.

In 1587, Fray Diego Soria, prior to the convent of San Agustin Acolman, petitioned the Pope for permission to hold Christmastide masses outdoors because the church could not accommodate the multitude that attended the services. The request was granted through a **rescript** and in the 17th Century, the **Misa de Gallo** or the **Simbang Gabi** became a Filipino spiritual tradition.

Today, Panuluyan is integrated in the liturgy as our Entrance and Penitential rites. A fitting preparation this advent season to welcome Jesus in our lives. Please open your Simbang Gabi Pamphlets to page 13 and participate in this tradition. We ask the people on the right side to speak the part of Homeowner 1, the people on the left side to speak the part of Homeowner 2, and all sides speak the part of Homeowner 3. Let us now prepare ourselves for this Liturgy.

(Pause for Silent Reflection)

I. INTRODUCTORY RITE

Integrating the "PANULUYAN with SIMBANG GABI
The Panuluyan / Posada as Entrance/Penitential Rite

Entrance Rite

Procession: cross bearer, Parol bearer, altar servers, Mary and Joseph, lector and the Presider. Upon reaching the altar, the Panuluyan group (Mary Joseph and Presider) stands by the Advent Wreath (not yet lit). Meanwhile the community sings the entrance song.

Greeting:

(The Presider greets the people and explains the meaning of the unlit parol in these or similar words)

Presider:

"Brothers and Sisters in the Lord, without the light of Christ in our hearts, we live in the darkness of our own selfishness. The drama of the Panuluyan is still a reality in the world today. Its message still rings in our ears, for we still refuse to welcome Jesus Christ into our lives; we still refuse to love the least of our brothers and sisters who knock at our doors. As we prepare to welcome him and celebrate his presence among us in this Holy Eucharist, let us acknowledge our failures and ask pardon for our sins, for God is full of gentleness and compassion."

The Panuluyan as Penitential Rite

1) *Mary and Joseph proceed to the right side of the of the Church, the Celebrant stays by the advent wreath*

Mary and Joseph: Tao Po!

House Owner 1: (people on right side) Who are you? Where do you come from?

Joseph: I am Joseph and my wife is Mary. We come from a great distance. We are from Nazareth, and we came here to register in obedience of Caesar's order.

House owner 1: I don't mind inviting you in if I have space. But we are overcrowded as it is, I have many visitors for the holidays. Look somewhere else.

(Short pause)...

Presider: **For the many times, we have turned our backs on those who are poor and needy – the strangers, the illegal immigrants, people of different colors, different beliefs, different sexual orientation, the homeless, the hungry, the unemployed, those with Aids, the alcoholics, the prostitutes, all those considered by society as rejects and all those we find different simply because they're not like us - LORD HAVE MERCY.**

All: Panginoon maawa ka.

2) *Mary and Joseph proceed to the left side of the Church*

Mary and Joseph: Tao Po!

House Owner 2: (people on the left side) Who are you? Why are you disturbing my family at this time of night?

Mary: We are sorry to disturb you, but we have been traveling for several days, and we are both tired and weary from the long trip.

House Owner 2: That's too bad ..., but I don't want to disturb my children and inconvenience our guests. Go away!

(Short pause)

Presider : **For the many times, we ignored and neglected the needs of the elderly, the sick, the disabled, the lonely, those who are suffering physically, mentally and emotionally, those who need a listening ear and those who need a little attention even among members of our own family.
– CHRIST HAVE MERCY.**

All : Kristo, maawa ka

3) *Mary and Joseph walk toward the Center aisle of the Church*

Mary and Joseph: Tao Po!

House Owner 3: (main congregation) Who are you? I am busy. We are having a party, and I am expecting the mayor and our pastor soon, make it quick, as I have only a moment to spare with you.

Joseph: Please let us in. My wife is about to give birth and we need a place for her. It is late and we are strangers in this place. We have no one or no place to go. For the sake of the child, please give us a little space. We really do not mind where you will put us – we need a little space, please, I beg you!

House Owner 3: Sorry, but children are not welcomed here. They are too much of a burden – they can't do much and can be very demanding. I do not want to be bothered, nor inconvenienced. No one can be here with you as we both have to go to our second jobs. Go away and look somewhere else. But I am warning you – I doubt very much if you will find someone who will take you in.

(Short pause)

Presider :

**For taking for granted and not appreciating the great gift of life God has given us and for not respecting this same gift in others; for our indifference and not speaking out against abortion, injustice, and war; for not taking care of our children and for abusing them, for our seeming unconcern on issues of domestic violence, sexual permissiveness, drugs, and other forms of violence in our streets; for promoting a culture of death instead of a culture of life.
- LORD HAVE MERCY.**

All: Panginoon maawa ka

4) Mary and Joseph join the Celebrant by the advent wreath

Mary and Joseph: Tao Po! Magandang Gabi po!

All: Sino po sila ?

Mary and Joseph: We are a poor couple seeking shelter – for our child is about to be born. Do you think you can find a place in your hearts for us?

(Short pause)

Presider:

**What is your response ? What is our response as a community? Are we like the homeowners who turned them away? Or will we welcome them and prepare a special place in our hearts? In our community? If we resolve to welcome him – let us together say:
COME, LORD JESUS COME.**

All: Come, Lord Jesus come.

(The Advent Wreath Light and all other lights are turned on. Mary and Joseph return to their seat and the Celebrant reads the Opening Prayer)

Opening Prayer:

Presider: **Let your tireless grace accompany us, Lord God, Let it go before us and follow after, That in union with the Blessed Virgin Mary We who long for the coming of your Son. May be sustained by your love in this life and the life to come. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your son, Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.**

All: Amen

II. LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Is 54: 1-10

Lector: Raise a glad cry, you barren one who did not bear, break forth in jubilant song, you who were not in labor, For more numerous are the children of the deserted wife than the children of her who has a husband, says the LORD. Enlarge the space for your tent, spread out your tent cloths unsparingly; lengthen your ropes and make firm your stakes. For you shall spread abroad to the right and to the left; Your descendants shall dispossess the nations and shall people the desolate cities.

Fear not, you shall not be put to shame; you need not blush, for you shall not be disgraced. The shame of your youth you shall forget, the reproach of your widowhood no longer remember. For he who has become your husband is your Maker; his name is the LORD of hosts; Your redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, called God of all the earth. The LORD calls you back, like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, A wife married in youth and then cast off, says your God.

For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with great tenderness I will take you back. In an outburst of wrath, for a moment I hid my face from you; But with enduring love I take pity on you, says the LORD, your redeemer. This is for me like the days of Noah, when I swore that the waters of Noah should never again deluge the earth; So I have sworn not to be angry with you, or to rebuke you.

Though the mountains leave their place and the hills be shaken,
My love shall never leave you nor my covenant of peace be
shaken, says the LORD, who has mercy on you.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial
Psalm**

Psalm 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b

Lector/Response: **I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.**

Lector: I will extol you, O LORD, for you drew me clear
and did not let my enemies rejoice over me.
O LORD, you brought me up from the nether world;
you preserved me from among those going down into the pit.

Response: **I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.**

Lector: Sing praise to the LORD, you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.
For his anger lasts but a moment;
a lifetime, his good will.
At nightfall, weeping enters in,
but with the dawn, rejoicing.

Response: **I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.**

Lector: "Hear, O LORD, and have pity on me;
O LORD, be my helper."
You changed my mourning into dancing;
O LORD, my God, forever will I give you thanks.

Response: **I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.**

**Gospel
Acclamation**

(Sung by choir)

Gospel

Lk 7:24-30

**When the messengers of John had left, Jesus
began to speak to the crowds about John.
"What did you go out to the desert to see--a
reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go**

out to see? Someone dressed in fine garments? Those who dress luxuriously and live sumptuously are found in royal palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

This is the one about whom scripture says: ' Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, he will prepare your way before you.' I tell you, among those born of women, no one is greater than John; yet the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." (All the people who listened, including the tax collectors, and who were baptized with the baptism of John, acknowledged the righteousness of God; but the Pharisees and scholars of the law, who were not baptized by him, rejected the plan of God for themselves.)

Homily

General

Intercessions: *Readers of the petitions should be assigned seats on the left hand side of the church for easy access of the ambo*

Presider : **Brothers and Sisters: when the Son of God first came, many did not recognize him and expected a different Messiah. Let us pray that in preparing for this great feast of Christ's incarnation, we may fully be ready to receive him in our hearts. Let our response be: Lord, make us remain faithful to you.**

All: Lord, make us remain faithful to you.

Reader: You make your Church on earth the light of the world enveloped in darkness. May our Pope, bishops, priests, religious men and women, and lay leaders keep that light burning by their proclamation of your word and giving witness to your love. We pray to you.

All: Lord, make us remain faithful to you.

Reader: You inspire establishment of government systems as support for the weak and the oppressed. Send the Holy Spirit to our leaders so they may heed the clamor of the people for progress, justice and equality. We pray to you.

All: Lord, make us remain faithful to you.

Reader: You invite us to live a meaningful life. Guide all those who are here to have a complete preparation of your coming through prayer and the sacraments. We pray to you.

All: Lord, make us remain faithful to you.

Presider: **You took us as your children when Jesus lived with us. Through your eternal love, accept our prayers as we grow in our faith in you and love for the neighbor. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, without end.**

All: Amen

III. LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Song: (Sung by Choir)

Preparation of the altar and gifts: *Presentation of gifts by different families, (collection will happen at this time) presentation of the bread and wine for Eucharist.*

Prayer over the Gifts:

Presider: **God our strength,
In you is our hope of salvation.
As we present these gifts,
Renew our joy within us
And make us a living sacrifice of praise.
We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord.**

**Preface of
Advent II**

(please use the sacramentary)

**Eucharistic
Prayer**

(please use the sacramentary)

IV. COMMUNION RITE

Lord's Prayer:

Sign of Peace:

**Breaking of the
Bread:**

(Lamb of God to be sung)

Communion:

Announcements:

**Prayer after
Communion:**

Presider:

**O God, we have received in word and sacrament the one whose coming John the Baptist so urgently announced. By the presence of Christ among us, reform our lives and give us the courage to announce to the world that your kingdom is near.
We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord.**

All:

Amen

V. CLOSING RITE

Greeting

Presider:

**The Lord be with you.
(Sumainyo ang Panginoon)**

All:

And also with you

Blessing

Presider: **May almighty God bless you,
The Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit
(Pagpalain kayo ng Makapangyarihang
Diyos Ama, at ng Anak, at ng Espiritu
Santo)**

All: Amen

Dismissal

Presider: **Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.**

All: Thanks be to God.

Recessional Song:

(To be sung in Tagalog – Medley of Christmas Songs)