

29th Sunday of Ordinary Time - October 20, 2024
Homily by +Bp. Romie- Jun Peñalosa

The Lord be with you.
If you notice,
when we are praying,
the acolytes move slowly.
The priest is also slow.
You know?
Sometimes we are dreaming.
Sometimes I see people
waiting, especially in communion.
When the priest is in communion, he is slow.
All of them are one by one.
After the priests, the deacons.
When I see others,
they are already sitting like that.
It's like they are in a hurry.
It's really on purpose.
Because our life
is too fast
in the world.
We are always
in a hurry in our life.
We are so in a hurry
that we miss out on the
most important things in our life.
We are always in a hurry.
And not only that,
our world is also
noisy.
If you notice, when you come to church
on a Sunday, it's quiet.
No one is noisy.
That's why we are changing.
Because that's not our culture anymore.
We live now in a culture
of noise
and fast pace.
That's why when we go back
to the church,
I slow down the movement
and I slow down everything.
Why? So that our life
will go back to normal.
Because we should
take time.
We are not in a hurry in our life.
Especially for the children.
Parents,
sometimes I see children
who are still small,
they put on lipstick,
the child is in high heels.
You are in a hurry to raise the child.
Don't do that.
Enjoy their childhood.
Don't force them
to grow up.
And also,
we are used to
noise. Music, news,
everything is noisy.
And we don't

take time to be silent anymore.
That's why we can't
think properly
about our life.
So that is why when we come to church,
I slow things down
and I keep
everything in silence.
So that
our life will go back to normal.
This is really
the normal pace of life.
We should not rush
and we should not
be overwhelmed
by the noise of the world.
Our gospel today
will confront us.
The gospel will confront
us with something that is
inside each and every
one of us.
Our desire
to be
honored,
our desire to be
in positions,
our desire to have power,
to have wealth,
it's all in us.
That is why
in our gospel today, it started out
with James and
John.
The sons of Zebedee, they came
to Jesus one day
and this is what they said to
the Lord.
Teacher, we want you to do for us
whatever we ask.
And he said to them, what do you want
me to do for you? They said to him,
Grant us that we may sit one
on your right and the
other on your left in your
glory. Now, what is
the issue here?
The first thing
they said
was
Teacher, we want
you
to do for us
whatever we ask.
That's what they said
to the Lord.
You see, when you approach the Word
of God, you don't
dictate to the Word
what you want.
You don't put
your own words
in the mouth of God.
When you encounter

the Word of God,
it should dictate
to you
what the Word of God
wants from you.
That's why they said
we want you to do for us
whatever we ask.
Martha was also like that
when she approached the Lord.
She said, Lord,
when you tell my brother
to sit there
listening to you, tell my sister.
We want to be dictated
by God.
We want to be manipulated by God.
We want to be used by God
to get
what we want.
And that
is a very, very bad
attitude.
But the Lord was not angry.
You know, this is beautiful.
Because He saw that both of them
had a dream. What was their dream?
They said, Lord,
when all of this is over,
when we finally
come to your kingdom, and you
now come in your glory,
let me sit at your
right hand, and my brother can sit
on the left.
That is a dream.
Okay?
Now, my question to you today is,
is that wrong?
Is that wrong?
Okay.
Everyone, please be quiet.
Who is saying that is wrong?
Who is saying
that is right?
Okay.
Others will not raise their hands, right?
Okay.
You are really dead.
It is not wrong to dream.
Amen?
That is why Jesus was not angry.
He was not angry.
When James and John
came to Christ and asking Him,
Lord, can you do this for us?
We want to sit
on your right, and we want to sit
on your left. That is a place
of honor.
That is a place
of power and authority.
Now, we would like to have that.
That is our dream.

It is not bad
to have a dream in life.
It is bad to have no dream.
Okay?
Parents, always teach
your children
to hope and to dream.
Okay?
Don't kill
the dream
of a child.
Direct
his dreams, direct
his hopes,
but do not kill
if the child is dreaming.
Don't kill
that dream.
Encourage the child to hope.
And so,
when they said to Jesus, can we sit
at your right? Can we have
that place of honor beside you?
It was a dream
for them. That is their dream.
That is why the Lord was not angry.
And this is what the Lord said
to them.
They said to Him,
but Jesus said to them, you do not know
what you ask. Are you able
to make the cup that I drink be baptized
with the baptism
that I am baptized with?
In other words, the Lord asked them,
Are you able?
That was His question.
He was not angry.
When they had a desire
and a dream, they sat.
Beside Christ,
when we enter in your glory,
when you come in your glory,
we want to sit with you.
We want to be in that place
of glory.
And the Lord said to them,
not in anger, the Lord said to them,
Are you able?
Can you drink
the cup that I will drink?
What is that cup? That is the cup of
suffering.
That is the cup of
suffering.
Can you drink the cup?
Then He said, can you be baptized
with the baptism that I am
going through? What kind of baptism is that?
It's the baptism of martyrdom.
It is the baptism of blood.
The baptism that Jesus refers to
is His baptism on the cross.
He asked,

Can you do that?
This is the answer of the two.
They said to Him,
We are able.
So Jesus said to them,
You will indeed drink the cup that I drink.
And with the baptism I am baptized
with, you will be baptized.
The Lord said, Yes, I know.
You are going to drink the cup that I will
drink, you will also be baptized
with the baptism that I will be baptized
with.
But to sit on my right hand
and on my left is not mine to give,
but it is for those for whom
it is prepared.
That position
is not for you
to decide.
It will only be decided
by God, the Father
in Heaven.
Now,
what I would like to share with you
today, because
it is not bad.
Some people
say it is wrong to be
wealthy.
It is not good,
if you are too rich.
It is also not good if you have power.
It is also not good
if you have influence
on other people.
Power, authority,
honor, wealth,
they are not wrong
by themselves.
Let us remember that.
It is not bad.
But coming
from a place
with an attitude of ego
and pride and selfishness,
it becomes wrong.
There is arrogance.
There is
arrogance, ego.
Now, they want
power, they want authority,
they want position.
Jesus knew where they were
coming from. They are coming from
a very bad spiritual
space.
The Lord confronted them immediately.
Yes, you can have
power, you can have the authority,
you can sit at my right and my left,
you can come to me in my glory
and share in that glorious
kingdom, but

you are not
coming from that
bad spiritual space.
It is not like that.
It is not bad if you have power.
You have power.
Mother Teresa,
Mother Teresa of Calcutta
is a very powerful woman.
She is just a small woman.
But when he went to the U.S.,
when he went to the U.S.,
and she delivered
a speech in
front of the President
of the United States,
this is what she said to him.
In front of him,
Mother Teresa,
stop killing
the babies.
You are killing the children
here. She scolded the President
of the United States. That is power.
Amen?
It's not wrong to have power because you can
use power to help others.
You can use
your power
to bring good.
It's not wrong to have wealth
because you can use your wealth
to provide for the
needy. You can use your
wealth to provide for the poor.
So it's not wrong.
The Scripture says that God is
Almighty. God is all
powerful. He has the power.
So if power is
wrong, then God...
Our God is evil
because all power is in Him.
But power is not bad.
It is how
you make use of the power.
It's how you make use of the wealth.
It's how you make use with the honor.
Mother Teresa is honored
wherever she goes. She doesn't deny
that there are awards and
honors given to her.
She acknowledges the honors
given to her.
Because to honor someone, you're
honoring them with the good that they did.
Amen?
You're honoring people
with the good that they did.
So it's not wrong to have
honor.
But the problem is, sometimes
because of our pride,
our arrogance,

our desire
to be superior
to others. It always starts there.
You always want
to be superior to other people.
You always want
to be superior to other people.
That attitude,
that is where
the danger
begins to happen because when you
begin to ask for power
and wealth, and you have
pride in your heart,
it will
definitely destroy you
and destroy others.
That's what the Lord
confronts.
Amen?
And the same
with us.
Today,
the Lord
confronts us.
Why are we dreaming?
I ask
the children,
why do you want to study?
He says,
my dream is
to finish my fatherhood.
I say, that's not a dream.
Your dream
is to earn
or earn
that you will have money
to provide for your family.
Going to college and finishing college
is not a dream.
It's just a stepping stone.
It's like you're saying,
I want to buy a car.
Why? I want to
buy gas.
Is that your dream?
You want to buy a car
because you want to use gas.
That's not the dream.
You're going to buy a car
not so you can spend it on gasoline.
You can spend more for gasoline. No.
You are buying a car so that you can reach
the places that you want to go.
That's the dream.
It's the same with us.
Why would you like
to have power? Why would you want
to have wealth? Why would you
want to have honor in your life?
Because
I would like
to use it to serve
others. That's what the Lord is saying.

I did not come
here
as the Son of God.
He could have come here
and show off His
wealth and power.
He is the richest
and most powerful of all.
He said, I came here
to serve
and to give my life
as a ransom for many.
That's the dream.
That's our dream.
That we can serve God.
And how do we do that?
So that we can serve God.
Use your abilities.
Use that power. Use that wealth
that God has given you to serve God
more and more by
serving God's other
children.
Helping
God's many
children.
Do you know that our Father in Heaven
has many children?
And He has many children who are in need.
Sometimes we ask,
Oh God, why are many
people in need in this world?
Your children are in need in this world.
The answer of God is, that's why I brought you here.
I sent you
to take care of them.
Amen?
That is the purpose why we are here.
Amen?
In our
first reading,
it was taken
from the book of the prophet Isaiah.
You know, if you read Isaiah
before you came here to
Isaiah 53, you read
the chapters before that.
He speaks of the Messiah coming.
A King that will come.
That will rescue, that will help
His people Israel.
That will declare vengeance on the nations.
That's why the image of Israel,
their Messiah, will come
really powerful.
Really very strong.
Very rich.
Then on
the 53rd chapter, our first reading
then He speaks of that
Messiah who will die
on the cross.
Why will He die?
That's why the message of the gospel

is foolishness.
It is a stumbling block to some people.
Because we have in mind
what the world has in mind.
To be powerful, to be great,
you have to display
that power. You have to display
that authority. No.
Jesus
did not display
the power, did not display
the authority and the wealth that He has.
He displayed
the glory of God.
When you talk of the glory of God,
you are talking about God's
character.
That is what we display.
That is what we show in our lives.
The character of God.
The character of God speaks of
His glory. Do you know Him?
He is God.
And what is the character of God?
The character of God is love.
The character of God is
mercy. That's why when
Christ came into this world,
He displayed
the glory of God.
Where? On the cross.
He really
showed what God is.
That is the true power.
That is the
true glory.
That you spend
yourself and give yourself
so that others
may live. That others
may be saved. That is what the Lord did.
He did not
come with guns blazing.
He did not come with a powerful
army. He came
alone to this world
and saved the whole world
by the glory of God.
He displayed
the glory of God.
You know,
when you talk of glory, it is synonymous
with character.
And the character of Christ
is a
character of love and mercy.
He went to the cross.
That is our first reading.
Yes,
the Messiah who is our
King is also
the suffering servant
of God.
The second reading

speaks of Jesus
who has no sin.
Jesus who has no
need for anything.
Yet, He prays
every day
with groaning,
with sighing every day
He comes before God.
He prays.
He does not need anything from God.
What was He asking
for? He was praying
for all of us.
As a high priest, He came to God
with tears
and intercessions, sleepless
nights. He would come before God
just to pray for
you and me.
Amen?
That is the display
of God's glory.
When those two said that,
the two said,
Lord, we want to sit with you
in your glory. We want to be
with you in your glory. And Jesus said,
You don't know what you're saying.
Because our concept of glory
when Himayah and God said,
We will sit down on little thrones
beside the great throne of God.
We will sit down on little thrones
beside the great throne of God.
We will sit down on little thrones
beside the great throne of God.
No!
He's not referring to a throne.
He's referring to the cross.
You want to sit with Christ
on a throne? You have
to hang on the cross first.
That's His glory.
We think that when we're with
Jesus, I'm going to be with the
Lord. I'm going to have power.
I'm going to have wealth.
I'm going to have authority. We think of Corona.
Corona.
Corona.
He's not talking about a golden
crown. He's talking about
a crown of thorns.
That is what you will wear.
That's why people think
the opposite.
People think the opposite.
Sometimes,
what we call good
is bad.
What we call bad sometimes
is good to us.
We got it all mixed up.

We got it all wrong. And here comes Christ
talking to us.
Yes, it's not a bad dream.
It is not wrong
for you to hope and dream
for wealth,
for power, for authority.
Yes.
He's not angry.
Who is angry?
Huh?
12
disciples, right?
There are 12 apostles.
The two asked for a position.
They asked
for a position from the Lord.
Let me sit at your right and your left.
The two. The ten
were angry.
Jesus was not angry.
Amen? The Lord was not angry
because the two dreamed.
Why were the ten angry?
Why?
Jealousy.
That's the problem.
Jealousy.
Sometimes, we waste
our lives because of jealousy.
If you have jealousy in your heart,
nothing.
Your life is ruined.
You will be
angry with people
who are successful.
You become
envious of people who are successful.
Instead of being happy,
you get angry
when people are successful
because of envy.
I was invited to a dinner
one time.
Someone invited me
to a restaurant.
I went there.
I asked
the owner of the restaurant.
I asked, what is the occasion?
Is it your birthday? He said, no, Father.
Why are you celebrating?
He said,
I just like to thank God.
Do you know, Father,
I used to be a loader.
I said, really?
What did you finish?
Did you finish school?
He said, yes, Law.
I said, that's great.
I studied Law.
Law.
Law.

I was in grade school, Father.
Then, he started out
as a loader.
Then, he worked his way up.
Then, he became a very rich businessman.
He said, I just like to thank God.
I looked at him.
He had a lot of visitors.
When we ate,
I was assured to a table.
I sat down at a table.
It was close to the table
where the owner
was celebrating.
I was there.
I was thinking of the people
who were sitting next to me.
I was thinking of the people
who were sitting next to him.
We were eating already.
The people sitting next to me said,
Do you know,
he is shameless.
He is a shameless person.
He did not study anything.
He is just a loader.
He is a fool.
That is the classic example
of jealousy.
You are eating there.
You are being fed.
You are being jealous.
Instead of being happy because you were invited,
your food was free that night.
You were jealous
because your friend was so rich.
Brothers and sisters,
be careful especially on Facebook.
Do not post your success.
Not everyone who likes your post
is happy with you.
They are just jealous.
Be careful.
Do not post your success.
Hey, I am earning now.
My business is big now.
Post your success.
Like your posts.
Look at those who like your posts.
They are not all your friends.
Those who like your posts
are just jealous.
Amen.
Ten people were jealous.
Why were they jealous?
Because they also like you.
I wish.
But they were the first.
They were the first two.
That is why, my dear
brothers, my sisters,
what is
important?
When we ask the Lord

that we may be with Him in His glory.
When we ask that,
Lord, I really want to be with You.
I will go to Heaven
and I will be by Your side.
It should come from my heart.
It should come from my heart.
Not with pride. Not with arrogance.
Not with entitlement.
But it comes from the heart.
It comes from the heart that
loves.
I want to sit by Your side
because I don't want us to be separated.
I will be by Your side.
And a heart that loves
does not look at
the throne.
Does not look at the position.
The heart that loves
is not concerned with
position and authority.
The heart that loves is always concerned
with what can I do
for You to serve You.
That is where the true service comes from.
True and laudable
service
comes from a heart
that truly loves God.
Amen?
You love God with all your
heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind.
Love Him.
But then, you have
to love your
neighbor as well.
As you love yourself.
Amen?
If that is
where your heart is.
If that is where you come from
in the spiritual space.
You come from a spiritual
space of love.
If that is where you're coming from,
then express your dreams
to God.
Lord, I want to have a good wife
this year.
I want to earn my business
this year. Lord, I want to have
a new family.
That is where you come from in the place of love.
Ask for it
because it is not bad.
It only becomes bad
if you come
from arrogance
and you come
from ego,
pride, and arrogance.
It makes everything.

That is what the Lord confronts
us with.

Amen?

Then Jesus Christ said to them,
the most important lesson,
the Son of Man,
I did not come to be served.

Okay?

I did not come to be served.
Although many serve the Lord.
I've also
said this.

My theme when I became
a bishop,
Strengthen your brothers.
That is my motto.

Okay?

Strengthen your
brothers.
Confirma fratres tuos.

That is
my motto as a bishop.
To strengthen your brothers.
I have come to serve my brothers,
my sisters. That is my motto.

I will serve you
to strengthen you.
Your strength becomes
my strength.

When I strengthen you, I strengthen myself.
I have come to serve, said Jesus.
I did not come to be served. That is not my purpose.
Although some will serve Him,
but that is not His purpose
in life.

When I am thirsty,
someone comes to me
and gives me water.
Someone serves me,
but I am not alive
for someone to serve me.

Amen?

Amen?

Jesus, many serve
Him, but He did not come
to be served.
He came to serve us.
That is the love
of God. For God so loved
the world. For God so
loved you and me
that He sent His Son
to serve us.

Kanyan ang pag-ibig.
Sabi sa Scriptures,
He did not just come to serve
us, but He also came
to give His life
to us as a ransom
for many. Ransom
means to buy us back.
To restore us back to
God, He has to give up His life.
That is how it is to serve.

Amen?

That is how it is to serve.
That is why
it is not about the position
and the authority, the
power. It should be the
responsibility that we should be
after.

I have been given the title
of a bishop,
but my responsibility
is to serve the people,
to shepherd the people,
to guard the people.
I get to wear
this ring.

Noon ang pinagawa yung
sing-sing na to, sabi ko, pwede ba
baka lang? E hindi
pwede, dapat ginto daw.
So naghanap tayo ng ginto
para magkaroon ako ng sing-sing
na ginto.

Now, I did not live for a golden
ring, but this
ring signifies that I
am here as your shepherd.
I have come
to serve you. This is what
it means to me.

Amen?

Itong halagan nito sa akin.
Kaya pag suot ko yung
sing-sing na to at nagtuturo ako sa inyo,
hawak ko rin yung cross para hindi ko
makalimutan.

Hindi lang yung sing-sing ang tinitinan
ko, hawak ko rin yung cross, makita ko
itong responsibilidad ko.

It's not
about the prestige and the
honor, it's all about the
service that we give. It's the same
thing for every one of us.

Bishop, pari,
deacon, our
life is here
to serve and not to be served.
Our life is here to be
given so that
others may live.

Yan ang purpose niya.

I pray
that today
that we would all wake up
magising tayo sa katotohanan.

Ba't ka nagkakayod?
Bakit nangangarap ka ng maraming
tera? Para saan yan?
Bakit ka nangangarap
na may position ka sa kumpanya,
sa trabaho mo? Bakit
ka nangangarap na gumanda
ang negosyo mo? Bakit ka nangangarap

na maging
maganda yung animo sa
taong ito? Bakit ka nangangarap na ganyan?
Why?

Why?

So that

you can serve
others and help
others. Amen?

Yan ang motivation.

Wag yung gusto ko lang
yumaman para ipakita
sa lahat akong pinakamagaling
sa lahat. Wag yan.

That's not the reason

why hindi ka magiging

happy pag ganyan

ang rason mo sa buhay.

It is when we begin to love

and share our

lives with others, share

the abilities that God has given us

that we will truly become

happy in

our life.

Alinon mo do abuabong

kwarta. Alinon mo

do abuabong influensya, abuabong

power kung

wak ka manalipay sa imong

kabuhi. Galin ka.

Amen? Diba?

God

wants us to be happy. That's why

He confronts us with this.

It's not

wrong to dream. Hindi

mali may pangarap ka.

Ayusin mo lang yung puso mo.

Wag mayabang.

Wag maging

arogante.

Keep your heart always

in the love of God.

Amen? Isipin

palagi. Mahal ako ng Diyos.

Kaya mamahalin ko rin siya

ng lubos kagaya

ng pagmamahal niya sa akin.

Amen. Please stand.