



St. Peter Claver (1581-1654) is a Spanish Jesuit missionary who spent his life in the service of African slaves brought against their will to South America during the 17th century. He is the patron saint of slaves and seafarers.

First Reading: (1 Cor 7:25-31)

Concerning the unmarried, I have no command of the Lord, but I give my opinion as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. I think that in view of the present distress it is well for a person to remain as he is. Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek marriage. But if you marry, you do not sin, and if a girl marries she does not sin. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that. I mean, brethren, the appointed time has grown very short; from now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the form of this world is passing away.

Ps 44:11-12. 14-17

R./ Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words.

Gospel: (Lk 6:20-26) Jesus lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you that hunger now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you that weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, on account of the Son of man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. But woe to you that are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you that are full now, for you shall hunger. Woe to you that laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. Woe to you, when all men speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets."

Reflection: Among the many expressions of Jesus on Humanity, this one is very special. "Blessed are you." The situations may not be as good as "blessed" in the usual meaning. Still a person is blessed. It is this blessedness that missionary is trying to bring out through mission activities. There are no "cursed" out there because of birth, status, class or creed. **We are all blessed by our God right from the point of Creation. He found it to be good. Hear the primordial appreciation of God, that you are good.** It is because this blessedness that he sends his only son to the world to preach the good news to the poor.