LECTIO DIVINA
HOLY READING – PRAYING WITH THE SACRED SCRIPTURES.

Sunday, June 7th, 2015, is the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ (Corpus Christi).

The readings are:
Exodus 24:3-8
Hebrews 9:11-15
Mark 14:12-16 and 22-26.

For the praying of the Liturgy of the Hours, the Psalter takes Week 2.

In the Liturgy this week:
June 11: St. Barnabas (Memorial)
June 12: Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

In the Australian Church:
June 10: Broome remembers the Death of Bishop Otto Raible in 1966.
June 12: Townsville celebrates the Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral in 2006.
June 13: Wollongong celebrates its Patronal Feast – The Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The Social Justice Calendar:

June 8: World Oceans Day.

June 10: On this day in 1838, a group of White Men massacred Indigenous women and children at Myall Creek in New South Wales. It has gone down in history as the "Myall Creek Massacre", and it was a Catholic Attorney General who served under Governor Gipps, who brought the murderers to justice. (John Hubert Plunkett).

June 10: On this day in 1935, Alcoholics Anonymous was established in New York.

June 11: On this day in 1971, Neville Bonner became the first Aboriginal Australian to hold a seat in the Federal Parliament.

June 11: On this day in 1975, Australia ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

June 12: World Day Against Child Labour.

June 12: On this day in 1988, the Barunga Statement was presented to Prime Minister Bob Hawke by Aboriginal Leaders.

Lectio: Read the first reading from the Book of Exodus, chapter 24, verses 3-8. Read slowly and prayerfully, really listening to the text as you read aloud. This is about my on-going conversion.

***Meditatio*: Understanding the text so that we can immerse ourselves in it, and make our response to it.** The main theme of this text is "Covenant". While most Biblical Commentaries are informative, I have always found Johannes Bauer to be the

most helpful on “Covenant”. He notes that “the ceremony of making the Covenant is symbolic of the Lord’s inner union with Israel. In this ceremony, Moses sprinkles the Altar which represents the Lord, with half the blood of the sacrificial victim and the people with the other half. Blood is symbolic of life. We have no life without it. And this whole text prefigures the Blood of Christ which will be poured out on Calvary, when Jesus lays down His Life for Humankind. And before that, He will speak of the Bread and Wine as His Body and Blood at the last Supper. So, this text needs to be heard in the light of the Gospel events, and in the light of the Liturgy of the Mass which we celebrate each Sabbath day and as often as we can on other days.

Take time to ponder on this text in the days ahead as you go about your work, rest, recreation. Allow the Holy Spirit to work on the fibres of your heart, and bring forth the melody of your response to this text. I share mine in *Evangelizatio* No. 1.

Read the Responsorial Psalm. The response is: I WILL TAKE THE CUP OF SALVATION AND CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD.

Psalm 115 is always linked to 114. However in 115, there is more emphasis on gratitude.

The Psalmist considers some outward expressions of gratitude. "The Psalmist can find nothing more noble than sacrifice (cf. first reading from Exodus). The Psalmist's 'cup of salvation' is the wine-offering that celebrates temporal deliverance. How much more excellent is our salvation and how much worthier our cup. 'The chalice of benediction which we bless, is it not the communion of the Blood of Christ.' (1 Cor. 10:16)." (Jamberoo Abbey Choir Psalters).

Pray with the Psalm in the week ahead and note lines and phrases which touch your inner spirit.

Lectio: Read the second text from Hebrews 9:11-16.

Meditatio: Some background to the text so that we understand it better and can then make our response. The message of this text is a beautifully simple one: there is no more need for the multiplication of sacrifices with bulls and goats and other animals (Old Testament), because Jesus Christ has laid down His life for humanity, and has brought a New Covenant (New Testament). The death of Jesus has overcome sin and death, and was the perfect sacrifice. He is now the Eternal High Priest who has gone on to the

Heavenly Sanctuary, and now acts on our behalf. May we praise and thank God for the freedom of the New and Eternal Covenant.

Read the text again and allow the Holy Spirit to work on your heart. What words, what phrases, what sentences are to change your life? I share my response in Evangelizatio 2.

Lectio: The Gospel Verse: The text is taken from John 6:51-52. I AM THE LIVING BREAD FROM HEAVEN, SAYS THE LORD; WHOEVER EATS THIS BREAD WILL LIVE FOREVER.

Lectio: Read the Gospel text from Mark 14:12-16, and 22-26. Read it slowly and reflectively, and maybe a second time. Try to read aloud rather than with the mind. Listen to the text as you read.

Meditatio: What is it about?
This is obviously Mark's account of the Last Supper. All the details are there. St. John Chrysostom, in his commentary, leads us back to the first text from Exodus: "As Moses had said, 'This shall be for you an everlasting memorial', so now the Lord says, 'Do this in memory of me until I come.' This is why He also says, 'I have longed to hand over to you these new rites, and to give you the Passover which will turn you into people

moved by the Spirit." And in all of this, the Last Supper is linked to Calvary where the Sacrifice took place.

Read this Gospel text a number of times, and as you read, listen to the Holy Spirit playing like a harpist on the fibres of your heart, to bring forth melody of your response.
I share my response in Evangelizatio No. 3

EVANGELIZATIO: My lived response to the texts with which the Church exhorts me to pray. St. James says "Be doers of the Word." And the Book of Deuteronomy tells us that the Word of God is in our hands to do it. The Word of God is life-changing for me, when I respond to it in a practical way.

1. My response is to the reality of Covenant. The Lord made a Covenant with me at my Baptism. I was given the gift of faith, handed on by my parents and grand-parents. I was taught the Lord's commandments and ordinances by my parents, grand-parents, and teachers. And as a Christian, I am responsible for obeying the commandments and ordinances handed down to me. This is a sure sign that I am faithful to my

part of the Covenant. I am aware too that the greatest commandment is "Love one another as I have loved you." This commandment was given to us by Jesus on the night of the Last Supper. In the light of this, I am concerned when I see that we have to have a "World Day" against Child Labour. I read that "Children are classified as child labourers when they are either too young to work, or the work they are doing may cause harm to them, either physically, mentally, socially or educationally." (Seasons of Social Justice – entry for June 12th.) My friend, Sr. Joan Chittister writes: "None of us is here for ourselves alone. That is the most single important lesson is life. I cannot claim compassion if I leave anyone outside the boundaries of my care. Only if my heart is large enough and my vision wide enough can I ever hope to be bigger than my own small agenda." And this is why I will embrace Child Workers into my heart, and my heart's prayer.

2. My response is to the reality that the 'Blood of Christ can purify my inner self from dead actions.' I ask myself what are dead actions? And I hear the answer: Dead actions are actions

that do not bring Love to others. All Christ did is about LOVE. So, in mind and heart, and thoughts and deeds, I am to choose life. We are familiar with the saying, “You are what you eat.” And so, my actions will be the fruit of what I eat, whether it be negative thoughts, or positive thoughts, racially motivated thoughts or thoughts which embrace people of other cultures, and so on. The only work I have to do is on myself. ‘Me’ is where it all starts.

3. I am responding to the words of Jesus: “This is my body. This is my Blood.” And I am aware that the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ is present in all humanity, made in the image and likeness of God. And I hear again the words of Jesus: “Whatever you do to one of these the least of my people, that you do unto Me.” Forgive me Lord, for the times I do not recognize you in the Other Sisters of my Community.

LECTIO DIVINA IS ABOUT READING THE SACRED SCRIPTURES, REFLECTING ON THE SACRED SCRIPTURES, FROM AN INFORMED BACKGROUND. IT IS ALLOWING THE HOLY SPIRIT TO PLAY ON THE FIBRES OF MY HEART, LIKE A HARPIST, AND BRING FORTH THE BEAUTY OF MY RESPONSE. IN RESPONDING TO THE TEXT, MY LIFE IS CHANGED MORE AND MORE INTO CHRIST.