



Ordine Dei Chierici Regolari Minori

Preposito Generale

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HOMILY FOR THE 8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)

Theme: *Imitating Christ, Our Teacher*

Gospel: Luke 6:39-45

Introduction: Who We Are as Adorno Fathers

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is a great joy to be with you today, and I extend my heartfelt **gratitude to Bishop Peter** for entrusting this parish to our care. We, the **Clerics Regular Minor, also known as the Adorno Fathers**, have been privileged to serve in different parts of the world—**Italy, the United States, the Philippines, India, Africa, and beyond**—and now, through God’s providence, we begin our mission here.

As **Father General of our Order**, I have the responsibility of leading a community of religious priests and brothers dedicated to **the imitation of Christ in His Paschal Mystery—His Passion, Death, and Resurrection**. This is the heart of our vocation: **to die to ourselves and rise with Christ**, living in **humility, charity, and obedience** for the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls.

We are not simply priests administering sacraments; we are consecrated men who strive to live a life of **deep prayer, communal witness, and self-sacrificing service**. Our mission is to **renew the Church through holiness and pastoral care**, and today, as we begin serving this new parish, we bring the same commitment—to walk with you in faith and to grow together as disciples of Christ.

With this in mind, let us reflect on today’s Gospel, where Christ calls us to be **students of His wisdom, humble in self-awareness, and fruitful in our Christian witness**.

1. Christ as Our Teacher: A Student Must Become Like His Master

Ad Maiorem Resurgentis Gloriam



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Jesus tells us:

“No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher.” (Luke 6:40)

This is the essence of our Christian life—**to be formed in Christ and to become like Him**. But for this to happen, we must **allow Christ to teach us daily**.

- Just as a student learns from his master, we must **immerse ourselves in Christ’s wisdom** through prayer, Scripture, and the sacraments.
- If we do not allow Christ to shape our hearts, we risk becoming **blind guides**, leading others astray instead of leading them to the truth.
- A disciple does not surpass his teacher—rather, he humbly follows until he becomes a true reflection of his master.

Thus, we must ask ourselves: **Who is forming us?** Are we truly learning from Christ, or are we being shaped by the world’s distractions, pride, and self-interest?

2. Recognizing Our Weakness Instead of Judging Others

Jesus then warns us:

“Why do you notice the splinter in your brother’s eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?”

We often fall into the trap of judging others while ignoring our own faults. We see the weaknesses of our neighbors **but excuse our own shortcomings**. Instead of learning from Christ’s humility, we become **self-righteous critics** rather than merciful disciples.

As Adorno Fathers, we emphasize **brotherhood**—walking together in faith, correcting each other with love, and **helping one another grow in holiness**. This should also be the spirit of this parish: a community where we **lift each other up** rather than **tear each other down**.



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Before we judge others, let us first examine ourselves. Jesus does not say we should never correct others, but He teaches that correction must come from **humility, not hypocrisy.**

3. Bearing Good Fruit Like Christ, Our Tree of Life

Jesus concludes with the image of the tree and its fruit:

“A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit.”

This challenges us to reflect: **What kind of fruit are we bearing?**

- Are we bringing others **closer to Christ** by the way we live?
- Do our words and actions **reflect the goodness of the Gospel**, or do they spread **division and negativity?**
- Are we **living witnesses** of Christ’s love, or are we Christians in name only?

Christ is **the perfect Tree** who bore the greatest fruit—the fruit of salvation. If we are rooted in Him, our lives should also bear the fruits of **sacrifice, humility, and self-giving love.**

This is not just the mission of the **Adorno Fathers**—it is the mission of every **disciple of Christ.**

4. Our Support for the Holy Father in His Final Years of Pontificate

Dear brothers and sisters, as I live in **Rome**, which serves as the headquarters of our Order, we have had the privilege of being **very close to the Holy Father.** We have witnessed his humility, his tireless service to the Church, and his deep desire to lead all of us **closer to Christ.**

But now, **he needs our closeness** more than ever—not just physically but **spiritually, through our prayers and support.**

We see in **Pope Francis** a true disciple, a **Vicar of Christ who has mirrored the life of Jesus** in his mercy for the poor, his compassion for the suffering, and his courage in guiding the Church through difficult times.



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As he nears the final years of his pontificate, let us pray for him fervently, that he may continue to bear witness faithfully until the end, just as Christ did. May we support him with our love and prayers, so that his example may inspire us to remain faithful disciples, bearing fruit for the glory of God.

Conclusion: Becoming Like Christ, Our Master

Dear friends, today's Gospel reminds us that:

1. **We are students of Christ, called to imitate Him daily.**
2. **We must recognize our weaknesses before judging others.**
3. **We must bear good fruit by living as true disciples.**
4. **We must support the Holy Father with our prayers, so that he may continue to resemble Christ in his final years as Vicar of Christ.**

As we begin this new mission in this parish, I invite you to **walk this journey with us**. Let us **learn from Christ together**. Let us **correct ourselves before we correct others**. And most importantly, let us **bear fruit in this community**—fruits of love, service, and holiness—so that **this parish may truly become a place where Christ is seen, known, and loved**.

Once again, I express my **deep gratitude to Bishop Peter** for welcoming us and for entrusting this mission to the **Adorno Fathers**. May the Lord bless our efforts and guide us all as we strive to **become like Christ, our Teacher and Master**.

Amen.