



ARCHDIOCESE OF PALO - CATECHETICAL MINISTRY  
 Module 20 FEAST OF THE STO. NIÑO CYCLE B  
 January 17 - Mk 10:13-16  
 Theme: A Child Leads Us to God's Kingdom

Narrate briefly the story of Sto Niño de Cebu (see attachment to this Module on page 3 )

The following questions or similar questions may be asked:

- What made Ferdinand Magellan and his men come to the shore of Limasawa?
- Describe how the people of Cebu received them. What happened to Magellan in Cebu?
- What is the miracle behind the story of Sto Niño
- While it is true that Spaniards came to rule us, what was the gift that they gave us?



### OPENING PRAYER

(Sign of the Cross)  
 PRAYER TO SANTO NIÑO OF CEBU  
 Or any song to Sto Niño

(Place the image of Sto Niño side by side with the Bible at the altar).

O miraculous Santo Nino,  
 prostrate before your sacred Image,  
 we beseech you to cast a merciful look on our troubled hearts.  
 Let Your tender love, so inclined to pity,  
 be softened at our prayers,  
 and grant us that grace for which we ardently implore you.  
 Take from us all unbearable affliction and despair.  
 For your sacred infancy's sake hear our prayers  
 and send us consolation and aid that we may praise you,  
 with the Father and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.  
 Glory Be.



### PHASE ONE REMEMBER THE STORY OF JESUS

#### 1.1 Proclamation of the Gospel Story

Let us spend a few minutes of silence to prepare our heart to listen to the word of God.  
 (A moment of prayerful silence)



#### A reading from the Gospel according Mark (10:13-16)

13 People were bringing their little children to him to have him touch them, and the disciples rebuked them for this. 14 When Jesus noticed it, he was very angry and said, "Let the children come to me and don't stop them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15 Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." 16 Then he took the children in his arms and, laying his hands on them, blessed them.

The Gospel of the Lord  
 All reply: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

#### 1.2 Brief Guided silent Meditation / Personal Prayer

(Let us spend a few minutes of silence as we answer these questions in our hearts)

- What line struck you from the reading?
- What did Jesus feel when the children came to him?
- What Jesus do to the children who came close to him?

#### 1.3 Text in Context

In the Gospel of Mark Jesus is presented as a Man of action. He has become known to many people especially in Galilee doing lots of work such as healing the sick, teaching the people about Father, making miracles and many others.  
 In today's Gospel, we see another side of the person of Jesus.

#### 1. What picture of Jesus do you see in this short Gospel reading?

(Jesus surrounded with children, blessing each one of them. He might be even, played and laughed with them)

In the New Testament time, it was a custom of the mothers to have their children blessed especially on their first birthday, by a Rabbi or a teacher, like Jesus.

#### 2. What was the reaction of the disciples when children came to Jesus?

They forbade the children to come to Jesus?

#### 3. Why do you think the disciples did not want children to approach Jesus?

Perhaps they thought Jesus needed some rest after a long walk so he should not be bothered.

#### 4. What did Jesus tell the disciples about children?

*Do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.... whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.*

#### 5. What does Jesus mean when he said: Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.?"

The kingdom of God is like the image of parents who lead us to the right path. A child simply obeys

parents without question because he/she trusts them. Jesus offers us the kingdom of God. But only those who accept it with openness like children can enter it.

**PHASE II REFLECT the Story  
of the Church  
(Teachings of the Church)**



The image of Sto. Niño in Cebu, believed to be miraculous, is considered to be the oldest Catholic icon in the Philippines. This year we commemorate the 500 years of our Christianity and so with the findings of the image of the Holy Child Jesus in Cebu in 1565. The spread of our Catholic faith from the very start, goes together with the image of Sto. Niño whose feast we celebrate this Sunday.. Needless to say that our devotion to Sto. Niño is rooted in our past and way of life as a people.

What is behind this powerful image of the Child Jesus - *in the robes of a king, crowned and holding the scepter and the globe?*

Sto. Niño reminds us of the relation of God's kingdom and the need to be a child to a loving God.

What is God's Kingdom?

What is to be like a child in this Kingdom?

Normally, we like to be on our own. One may say: *I am sure I can complete this work without anyone's help.* The desire for power and to be on top at the expense of the other is what matters. This illusion among adults has become acceptable to many. Or we may seem to say: *I don't need God.* Instead of calling God, some engage on drugs, on lures of modernity, abuse in handling gadgets, as if one lives only to satisfy one's desires. These are mere lies from the evil one. This causes separation from oneself, from neighbours and from God. This is sin itself. This is not what we are created for.

***What are those times when I think big of myself and less of God, the King of the Universe?***

Sto. Niño invites us to look deeply into *who we really are.* We are God's children- our true identity. Children need the attention and care of adults. Simplicity moves them to cry for help for they know they will not be left unaided. In the same manner, we are dependent on God who provides us all we need.

God is our tender and caring Father. A childlike attitude makes us abandoned ourselves to God. Let us allow ourselves be embraced by his love. God wants all to live in peace with one another in a happy world free from all forms of addictions that may prevent us from growing as his children. God desires for us a place where all are equal, enjoying the same opportunities of a respectable life. This is the Kingdom of God, the image of a loving parent who wishes nothing but the good of the children not only

here on earth but even life beyond.

Once again, let us be reminded what Jesus says: *Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it."*

***Do I place myself as a little child before God?  
When do I experience God as a loving Father?***

**PHASE THREE RESPOND – with/ in my personal  
faith /community faith story**

We are known for colourful festivity of Sto. Niño in our parishes, of which we enjoyed doing over the past years. But on this 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary, nothing much could be done due to pandemic. What would be the best way to celebrate the Feast of Sto. Niño at this time when many people throughout the world are suffering including our neighbours next to our door..

How do we turn our novenas and devotion to Sto. Niño, into a real celebration as children of the same Father?



**CLOSING PRAYER**

Mother/Father : Coming together as God's family on this feast of Sto. Niño let us ask forgiveness for the times we failed to see the Child Jesus among children who need help, Lord have mercy.  
All: Lord have mercy

Mother /Father : Lord Jesus your kingdom is for all and forever peaceful, help us to make peace even to those different from us, Lord have mercy  
All: Lord have mercy

Mother/Father : Lord Jesus you came to the earth and became one of us, give us humble heart that is ready to accept others as they are, Lord have mercy  
All: Lord have mercy

Mother/Father : May the Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to life everlasting. Amen.

**BACKGROUND FOR THE CATECHISTS**

**CCC 2855** The final doxology, "For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever," takes up again, by inclusion, the first three petitions to our Father: the glorification of his name, the coming of his reign, and the power of his saving will. But these prayers are now proclaimed as adoration and thanksgiving, as in the liturgy of heaven.<sup>176</sup> The ruler of this world has mendaciously attributed to himself the three titles of kingship, power, and glory.<sup>177</sup> Christ, the Lord, restores them to his Father and our Father, until he hands over the kingdom to him when the mystery of salvation will be brought to its completion and God will be all in all.

## History of the Sto. Niño of Cebu



The discovery of the 7100 island archipelago in the Philippines has been linked to Spain's glorious chain of conquests. On September 20, 1519, a fleet of five galleons commanded by Portuguese Navigator Ferdinand Magellan at the service of the king and queen of Spain set sailed from San Lucar de Barrameda to search for the Spice Islands. They did not find the spice island, instead they landed in Limasawa, a small island south of Leyte in the central part of the Philippines. Magellan took possession of the islands and named it after King Philip of Spain. Magellan's expedition headed for Cebu and found the island very hospitable. He made Cebu the base of his exploration, Christianization and conquests. King Humabon and Queen Juana of Cebu gave him a warm reception and embraced Christianity as well. As gratitude to his hospitality, Magellan agreed to fight with king Humabon who was at war with the neighbouring tribe in Mactan island. Magellan was killed in the battle. His men returned to Spain, and that same expedition has also set the record as the first to circumnavigate the earth. Spain sent another expedition to the Far East Region. An Augustinian priest, named Andres Urdaneta, a world-known cosmographer who lived inside the monastic walls of the Augustinian monastery in Mexico was summoned to lead the expedition. On November 21, a memorable expedition left Mexico for the Philippines and arrived in Cebu on April 27, 1565. DISCOVERY

OF THE IMAGE OF THE SANTO NIÑO Because of Cebuanos suspicion that the Spaniards return has bringing retribution to Magellan's death, another battle broke out. But heavy artilleries and huge cannons forced the natives to flee to the mountain leaving behind their villages burnt to the ground. As Spanish soldiers surveyed the debris of the village, a soldier found an image of the Child Jesus under the pile of ashes unscathed inside a wooden box. As earlier authenticated entry in the Journal of Pigafetta, clerk in the Magellan expedition, explained the origin of Santo Nino: "On the day Queen Juana was baptized by Father Pedro Valderama, chaplain of that expedition, Pigaffeta himself presented her with the Image." The same Image now lies in the Basilica del Santo Nino and become a favorite destination for millions of pilgrims each year. For four and half centuries now, the Image of Santo Nino continues to make wonders in the lives of many Filipinos. On the third Sunday of each year, in Cebu, millions will flock to the streets in Cebu for a colorful festivity, honoring the Santo Nino and placing the Island and the entire Philippines under His Patronage. During the last World War, a bomb fell inside the Church but the Image was recovered unscathed. It was one of the numerous miracles and powers attributed to the Holy Image. In 1965 the historic Santo Nino Church was renovated for the observance of the Fourth Centenary of the Christianization of the Philippines held in Cebu City. It was during the centennial celebration that the Sacred Congregation of Rites elevated the Santo Nino Church to the rank of Basilica Minore with all the rights and privileges accruing to such title.

(Source:<http://www.santoninodecebu.org/history.html>)