

CATECHESIS ON BASIC ECCLESIAL COMMUNITIES

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY BEC SUNDAY 2022

“Re-rooting BECs to Basic Human Communities through Synodality”

This Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity 2022, our 4th BEC Sunday, let us reflect on our communion, participation, and mission in the Basic Ecclesial Communities as we also journey with the whole Church on the road of Synodality and continue to be in solidarity with our brothers and sisters facing various concerns in life.

The Church is basically a mystery of communion (CFC#1362). This communion, however, is not merely brought about by sociological or cultural factors but a communion that is rooted in God’s own Trinitarian communion – the unity-in-diversity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. St. John Paul II in *Ecclesia in Asia* expressed it beautifully: *“United to the Son in the Spirit's bond of love, Christians are united to the Father, and from this communion flows the communion which Christians share with one another through Christ in the Holy Spirit”* (EA#24). And because the Church is patterned after the unity of the Triune God, her primary mission then is to be the sacrament of the unity of the whole human race and serve the cause of unity in all dimensions. Therefore, we can say that the Church, our Basic Ecclesial Communities, is a mystery of communion by her relationship with the Triune God both in her nature as communion and in her unifying mission.

In October 2021, Pope Francis opened a unique two-year synodal process envisioned to revitalize communion, participation, and mission within the Church. Accordingly, Synod on Synodality aims not simply to give a one-time experience of synodality; instead, a thrust where the entire People of God always discern together in moving forward. Our BECs have been at the forefront of this endeavor of the Church. Here in the Philippines, we are happy to know that consultations are being done at the BEC level. Indeed, synodality is at the very heart of BECs. It is not only the process the BEC usually takes but the very nature of BEC itself. Hence, we are called to pray, listen, and discern together the path to which the Holy Spirit is leading the Church.

We have been exposed to various social, economic, health, political, and environmental concerns these past years. While the COVID-19 pandemic persists, calamities and tragedies continue to ravage our communities. The social and economic gap between the rich and poor continue to widen. We can still feel the political divide caused by the recent national election. While we look at ourselves as Basic Ecclesial Communities, we cannot but focus only on "ecclesial" concerns. We must go back and re-

root ourselves to our Basic "Human" Communities, for here is where we began and where we also belong. BEC is the integration of faith and daily life; hence, we cannot simply dismiss the concerns of our everyday life, the concerns of our Basic Human Communities – the ground through which our Basic Ecclesial Communities have grown and continue to stand.

BEC Day 2022 reminds us that our work for ecclesial, societal, and political reconciliation and renewal; fight for social justice, equality and inclusivity; eradication of oppressive structures; improving quality of health and living; promoting ecological conversion, and finding solutions to climate emergencies; dialogue with other Churches and faith-traditions, etc., are all essential to our mission in the BECs. Our effort to promote, form, animate, and innovate BECs may not give us immediate results. We may not be able to see the fruit of our labors yet, but it should not hinder us to all the more do the work for the realization of this noble mission. BECs can be signs of hope in a society faced with various socio-economic-political-health-environmental concerns such as ours.

Moreover, the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity is a celebration of God's life and love – the source of our being and doing. It is also the celebration of sharing and giving, openness to listen and dialogue, communion, participation, and mission. Let us allow our people to experience in our BECs the unifying presence of God and the consoling love of God. Let us transform our BECs into signs of hope and truly seeds of the Kingdom of God. And we invoke the blessing of the Triune God, in the words of this 13th Century Dominican prayer:

*May God the Father bless us.
May God the Son heal us.
May God the Holy Spirit enlighten us,
and give us eyes to see with,
ears to hear with,
hands to do the work of God with,
feet to walk with,
a mouth to preach the word of salvation with,
and the angel of peace to watch over us and lead us at last,
by our Lord's gift, to the Kingdom.
Amen.*