

PROCESSIONS WITH THE PILGRIM STATUE OF OUR LADY



Blessing of the Wheat at Artois | by Jules Breton (1827 – 1906)

A parish is not limited in what para-liturgical activities it might undertake with the pilgrim statue of Our Lady. However, it would probably be best to make use of some aspects of the tradition in designing such para-liturgical celebrations. When it comes to processions, a parish could adopt certain elements from what were known as Rogation Days in the past. The word 'rogation' comes from the Latin word 'rogare' which means to ask, petition or beg. In the past, Rogation Days were set aside as special times of penance, prayer, procession, and Mass, especially after calamitous events. These can be traced at least as far back as the fifth century. The typical time for Rogation Days were on April 25th or on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Ascension. However, Rogation Days can take place anytime except Sundays, Solemnities, All Souls' Day, Ash Wednesday and Holy Week.

Historically in the Midwest, Rogation Days typically had a strong agricultural tone. Rural parishes would incorporate the blessing of fields. There would also be prayers for a bountiful harvest, protection from storms, and timely rains. In more urban settings, the blessings of industry and commerce were incorporated. Rogation Days are a summons to personal conversion and to trusting confidence in God's mercy and goodness.

A rural parish might want to schedule a procession with the pilgrim statue of Our Lady sometime in the Spring to ask for a bountiful harvest, before the parish's patronal feast day celebration, or before Marian feast day. This could also be a eucharistic procession of one would desire to do so. Said procession could go around the church grounds or, as was typically done in the past, the procession could be the length of a few miles as one walks to the limits of the parish boundaries. Along the way there would typically be four stations/altars where there would be ornate crosses set up and prayers and or reflections could be given.

Typically, one would sing Psalms that have to do with the idea of penance and/or for the blessing of a bountiful harvest. Children would walk carrying green boughs of trees typical to the area, especially those that might be harvested, and girls would carry bundles of native flowers.

Especially important would be the singing of the Litany of Saints and the Canticle from Daniel 3:37-88, 56 (Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord). A sample celebration of a Rogation Day procession from the Diocese of Fargo is provided.

AT THE PROCESSION

(All gather in the church to pray. At a certain certain point the priest stands and the cantor/reader begins the antiphon. All stand)

Arise, O Lord, assist us, and make us free because of Your name. We have heard with our ears O God, and our fathers have announced it to us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Arise, O Lord, assist us and make us free because of Your name.

(All kneel)

LITANY OF THE SAINTS

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God, the Father of Heaven,

have mercy on us.

God, the Son, Redeemer of the world,

etc.

God, the Holy Spirit,

Holy Trinity, one God,

(All rise and begin procession. The order is: Cross, faithful, clergy, priest. The procession may go around the church grounds, or another suitable route)

Holy Mary,

pray for us.

Holy Mother of God,

Holy Virgin of Virgins,

St. Michael,

St. Gabriel,

St. Raphael,

All you holy Angels and Archangels,

St. John the Baptist, St. Joseph,

All you holy Patriarchs and Prophets,

St. Peter,

St. Paul,

St. Andrew,

St. James,

St. John,

St. Thomas,

St. James,

St. Philip,

St. Bartholomew,

St. Matthew,

St. Simon,

St. Thaddeus,

St. Matthias,

St. Barnabas,

St. Luke,

St. Mark,

All you holy Apostles and Evangelists,

All you holy Disciples of the Lord,

All you Holy Innocents,

St. Stephen,

St. Lawrence,

St. Vincent,

SS. Fabian and Sebastian,

SS. John and Paul,

SS. Cosmas and Damian,

All you holy Martyrs,

St. Sylvester,

St. Gregory,

St. Ambrose,
St. Augustine,
St. Jerome,
St. Martin,
St. Nicholas,
All you holy Bishops and Confessors,
All you holy Doctors,
St. Anthony,
St. Benedict,
St. Bernard,
St. Dominic,
St. Francis,
All you holy Priests and Levites,
All you holy Monks and Hermits,
St. Mary Magdalen,
St. Agatha,
St. Lucy,
St. Agnes,
St. Cecilia,
St. Catherine,
St. Anastasia,
All you holy Virgins and Widows,
All you holy Saints of God,
Be merciful,
Be merciful,
From all evil,
From all sin,
From Your anger,

intercede for us.
spare us, O Lord.
graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lord, deliver us, we pray.
etc.

From a sudden and unexpected death,
From the snares of the devil,
From anger, and hatred, and every evil will,
From the spirit of fornication,
From lightning and storms,
From the scourge of earthquakes,
From plague, famine, and war,
From everlasting death,
Through the mystery of Your holy Incarnation,
Through Your coming,
Through Your Nativity,
Through Your Baptism and holy Fasting,
Through Your Cross and Passion,
Through Your Death and Burial,
Through Your holy Resurrection,
Through Your admirable Ascension,
Through the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete,
In the day of Judgment,

We sinners,

Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

That You would spare us,

etc.

That You would pardon us,

That You would vouchsafe to bring us to true penance,

That You would vouchsafe to govern and preserve Your holy Church,

That You would vouchsafe to preserve in holy religion the Pope and all clerics in holy orders,

That You would vouchsafe to humble the enemies of holy Church,

That you would vouchsafe to give peace and true concord to civil leaders,

That you would vouchsafe to grant peace and unity to the whole Christian world,

That You would restore to the unity of the Church all who have strayed from the truth and lead all unbelievers to the light of the Gospel,

That You would vouchsafe to confirm and preserve us in Your holy service,

That You would lift up our minds to heavenly desires,

That You would render eternal blessings to all our benefactors,

That You would deliver our souls, and the souls of our brethren, relatives, and benefactors from eternal damnation,

That You would vouchsafe to give and preserve the fruits of the earth,

That You would vouchsafe to grant eternal rest to all the faithful departed,

That You would vouchsafe to answer our prayers,

Son of God,

**(As the end of the Litany of the Saints approaches,
the celebrant returns to the foot of the altar, and
all kneel, including the celebrant.)**

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

have mercy on us.

Christ, hear us,

Christ, graciously hear us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Our Father...

(The cantors/reader begins psalm 70 (69))

O God, come to my assistance;

O LORD, make haste to help me!

Antiphon 1: Let there be shame and confusion on those who seek my life.

Psalm 70

O God, make haste to my rescue,

Lord, come to my aid!

Let there be shame and confusion
on those who seek my life.

O let them turn back in confusion,
who delight in my harm,
let them retreat, covered with shame,
who jeer at my lot.

Let there be rejoicing and gladness
for all who seek you.
Let them say forever: God is great,
who love your saving help.

As for me, wretched and poor,
come to me, O God.
You are my rescuer, my help,
O Lord, do not delay.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Antiphon: Look on me with love, O Lord and rescue me.

(the celebrant sings/says the versicles and
the choir (or people) give the responses)

℣. Save Your servants.

℣. Be unto us, O Lord, a tower of strength.

℣. Let not the enemy prevail against us.
harm us.

℣. O Lord, deal not with us according to our sins.
iniquities.

℣. Let us pray for our Sovereign Pontiff N.

℣. Let us pray for our benefactors.

℞. Who hope in You, O my God.

℞. In the presence of the enemy.

℞. Nor the son of evil have power to

℞. Nor requite us according to our

℞. The Lord preserve him, and give him
life, and make him happy on earth, and
deliver him not up to the will of his
enemies.

℞. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to repay with
eternal life all those who do good to us for
Your name's sake. Amen.

℣. Let us pray for the faithful departed.

℞. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.

℣. May they rest in peace.

℞. Amen.

℣. For our brethren who are absent.

℞. Save Your servants, O my God, who
put their trust in You.

℣. Send them help, O Lord, from Your holy place.

℞. And from Sion watch over them.

℣. O Lord, hear my prayer.

℞. And let my cry come unto you.

**(Here the celebrant rises, and remains
standing till the end. All the rest remain kneeling)**

℣. The Lord be with you.

℞. And with your spirit. Let us pray.

O God, whose nature it is ever to show mercy and to forgive, receive our petition, that we and all your servants, bound by the fetters of sin, may by your tender mercy, be graciously pardoned.

We beg You, O Lord, hear the prayer of your suppliants and pardon the sins of your penitents; and deign to grant us equally your tender mercy and peace. Show us, O Lord, your ineffable mercy, that blotting out our transgressions, you would vouchsafe to snatch us from the condemnation they deserve.

O God, our sins offend you, but our penance reconciles us. Look graciously on the entreaties of your people, and turn away the scourge of your anger which our sins deserve. Almighty and eternal God, have mercy on your servant, N., our Sovereign Pontiff, and direct him, according to Your mercy on the way to eternal salvation, that by Your grace, he may both desire those things that are pleasing to You, and may perform them with all his strength.

O God, from whom proceed all holy desires, good counsels, and just works, give to Your servants that peace which the world cannot give, so that our hearts may be dedicated to the keeping of your law, and free from the fear of our enemies, we may, under your protection, live our days in peace. Inflammé, O Lord, our affections and our hearts with the fire of the Holy Spirit, that we may serve You with a chaste body, and please You with a clean heart.

O God, Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, grant to the souls of the faithful departed the remission of all their sins, so that by our devoted prayers they may obtain the pardon they have always desired.

We beseech You, O Lord, direct our actions by Your holy inspirations, and carry them out by Your gracious assistance, so that every prayer and work of ours may always begin with You, and through You be happily ended.

Almighty everlasting God, who has dominion over the living and the dead and are merciful to all whom you foreknow will be yours by faith and good works; we humbly plead of you, that they for whom we resolve to pour out our prayers, whether this present age still detains them in the flesh, or whether the world to come has already received their souls, may, through the prayers of all Your saints and by Your benign goodness

obtain the remission of all their sins. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns in the Unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **R.** Amen.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

V. May the almighty and merciful God graciously hear us.

R. Amen.

V. And may the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **R.** Amen.

**(The celebrant leaves the sanctuary and
vests for the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.)**