

Homily for the Feast of Blessed Bronisław Markiewicz

Readings: Isaiah 61:1-3a; Romans 12:3-13; Mark 10:13-16

On this special day, we gather to honour Blessed Bronisław Markiewicz, whose life and dedication to God and to the people, especially through his work with the youth, reflect the deep call of Christ to serve others in humility and love.

In today's readings, we are invited to reflect on the themes of mission, self-giving, and the essential virtues of poverty, chastity, and obedience that Bronisław Markiewicz embraced wholeheartedly.

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah speaks of the mission of the Lord's servant. He is anointed to bring good news to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted, and to comfort those who mourn.

This prophecy points forward to the coming of Christ, and it resonates deeply in the life of Blessed Bronisław Markiewicz, who sought to bring hope to the youth, particularly those who were struggling or in need.

His ministry to the young, especially through his foundation of the Congregation of St. Michael the Archangel, echoes the mission of bringing light into dark places and healing to those who are spiritually or emotionally wounded.

Bronisław Markiewicz's response to this mission was a life of radical poverty, chastity, and obedience. His vow of poverty wasn't just about material detachment; it was a radical choice to live for God alone and to embrace simplicity, so that his life could be fully available for service.

In this, he embodied the very spirit of Isaiah's prophecy, offering his life as a gift to those in need of God's mercy and love.

In the second reading, St. Paul encourages us to live with humility and to recognize that each person has been given different gifts, but all are meant to serve one another in love.

Bronisław Markiewicz's life was a perfect example of this. He didn't seek greatness for himself, but chose instead to live humbly, dedicating his life to God's service, especially in his work with youth. His religious vows were a way of saying that he wasn't living for his own glory, but for the good of others and the glory of God.

This call to humility and service connects to the vow of obedience. Bronisław's obedience was not a mere submission to authority, but a conscious choice to follow God's will in all things. Obedience meant listening to God's voice in his life and responding with trust and action.

In doing so, he was able to build a community centered on love, service, and prayer—living out the teaching of St. Paul that we are one body in Christ, each part playing its role for the good of all.

In the Gospel today, Jesus shows us that the Kingdom of God belongs to those who approach it with the humility and trust of a child. He rebukes the disciples for trying to turn away the little children, emphasizing that it is precisely in their simplicity, innocence, and openness that we can encounter the heart of the Kingdom of God.

Blessed Bronisław Markiewicz, in his vows, chose to live with the simplicity and trust that Jesus called for. His vow of chastity, for example, wasn't just a renunciation of marriage or personal pleasure.

It was a choice to live a life wholly devoted to God and to others, with a purity of heart that could see Christ in every person he served. Through this, he became like the child in the Gospel, open and receptive to the love of God, and ready to share that love with others.

As we celebrate the feast of Blessed Bronisław Markiewicz, let us be inspired by his example of living the evangelical directions of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

These vows were not just rules to follow; they were the means by which he could give himself completely to God's mission, serving others with humility, simplicity, and love.

May we, too, embrace our own call to serve God and others with the same spirit of humility and dedication, offering our lives in poverty, chastity, and obedience for the greater glory of God and the good of all His people.

Let us pray for the grace to live our own lives in the spirit of the Gospel, just as Blessed Bronisław Markiewicz did.

AMEN.