

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

CHOOSING THE RESURRECTED CHRIST AS THE BEST PART OF OUR LIFE



My brothers and sisters in Christ, the biblical texts for this 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C, speak to us about the importance of hospitality. Hospitality is the art of welcoming one another, of entering relationships with them, and of experiencing and sharing ordinary and sometimes even extraordinary experiences with them. By constantly reaching out to meet people and welcoming them into our homes, we can, by chance or unconsciously, encounter the Lord Himself through them. This is what today's first reading tells us:

It was at the oaks of Mamre, a hot hour of the day. Abraham, sitting at the entrance to his tent, saw three travelers passing by. He offered them hospitality under the oaks—oaks, in the eyes of the Canaanites, were sacred trees. He invited them to lie down for a while. The traveler referred to in this text is God Himself, Who, in human form, chose to visit Abraham. Dear friends, God visited Abraham. He can also visit us. He will appear to us as a brother, a sister, a sick person, a poor person, a needy person, a drunkard, and even a madman. Jesus will repeat this to us in other words: **"As you did it to one of my little ones, you did it to me";** or again: **"Whoever receives you received me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me (God)."**

In the passage from Saint Luke that the Church offers us today, Jesus, in the context of hospitality, seems to criticize Martha for the good work she does in preparing the meal. In reality, she receives the Lord, as Abraham did in the first reading. Christ does not reproach her for wanting to welcome her guests well, but for being too concerned, for worrying too much. In our consumerist world, we struggle to contemplate, worship, and pray. The frantic pace of life, money, and travel risks making us lose our inner sense of purpose and turning us into diminished, superficial beings. If the spiritual is stifled, a dangerous void and imbalance are created. In responding to Martha, Jesus didn't mince His words: **"Martha, Martha, you are worried and tormented about many things. Only one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the better part, and it will not be taken from her."**

A misinterpretation of this response may bring a smile to the faces of the idle or those who take pleasure in settling into idleness, relativism, or negligence. **Listening to the Word of God, spending hours of meditation or contemplation are not opportunities to escape work or indulge in laziness; rather, these moments prepare us to better manage our workdays with a view to remarkable progress. "Your word, Lord, is a light to my feet and a lamp to my path."**

As at Mamre and as at Bethany, the Lord continues to invite Himself. This is what happens in every Eucharist. He receives our offerings, but it is to give Himself: **"Take and eat..."** To guide us toward the Eucharistic meal, He stands at our door and knocks; He waits for us to open the door and invite us to eat with Him and He with us (Rev. 3:20).

May we grasp and reflect on Christ's invitation to us, which inspires us to become contemplatives in action, **for a better world and a better Church. Amen!**

Very Rev. Fr. Lucien Eugene Pierre Ph.D., Pastor, VF

Dean of Northwest Broward of the Archdiocese Miami – July 20, 2025
