

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

WORLD MISSIONARY WEEK



This Sunday's liturgy reminds us of the importance of prayer. The book of Exodus (1st reading) shows us Moses on top of the mountain. Hands raised; he pleads with the Lord for his people fighting against their enemies. It was thanks to this persevering prayer that the people triumphed. Reading this story, we understand the importance and power of the perseverance of personal and community prayer.

This Sunday, we are on the last day of the world missionary week. Like Moses, we pray for the support of all who preach the good news on five continents. We think of all those peoples who must fight for their human dignity and religious freedom to be respected and

recognized. It's up to us now to raise our hands to the Lord. They count on us to support them with our fraternal and community prayer. **Together, we pray the prayer of Psalm 120: "Let us lift our eyes to the mountains, for help comes from the Lord our God, who stands near us. He will preserve our life from beginning to end, from now on and forever".** The letter of St. Paul to Timothy is also a call to mission. "Proclaim the Word of God, intervene in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and doctrine."

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that everything begins in prayer. Jesus tells us the story of this poor widow who pleads for justice. This widow symbolizes the poverty and powerlessness of the excluded, voiceless, and marginalized. They are very numerous in our country and around the world. Christ concludes his parable by asking us a question of the highest importance: **"When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"** Will He find missionary disciples? The worst enemy of faith is discouragement, which is when we tell ourselves that God is never there, or that he has abandoned us. Jesus warns us against this danger. **To believe is to persevere in prayer, it is to cry out to God Day and night without lowering the arms. There will be no shortage of birds of prey to sow doubt. But the widow's example is there to teach us obstinacy.**

In this month of the Rosary, we pass our prayer through Mary. She is there to point us to Christ and His Gospel. In the word "Rosary", there is "rose". A child who wants to please his mother does not offer her a flower but a whole bouquet. The same goes for us regarding our heavenly mother. Let us not hesitate to give Her the place of honor in our lives. She is there to adjust us to the love of God.

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Dean of Northwest Broward Deanery of the Archdiocese Miami – October 19, 2025
