

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

OUR INNER DISPOSITION TOWARD GOD AND OTHERS



Last Sunday, we heard an invitation to pray with insistence and with faith. Today, the Word of God reminds us of the inner dispositions that we must have.

The first Reading invites us to correct the image we have of God. It comes to remind us that "the Lord does not differentiate between men." He hears the prayer and the complaints of the poor, the oppressed, the widow and the orphan. We think of all the victims of all the wars. We cannot remain indifferent in the face of suffering. Later, Jesus will proclaim that the Gospel is the Good News announced to the poor. And He will specify that He is recognized through the one who is hungry, the

one who is without clothes, the one who is a stranger or a prisoner. Through them, it is Him that we welcome or that we reject.

The Gospel is precisely there today to emphasize the prayer of the poor. **Jesus tells us a parable to convey a message of the highest importance. He presents us with a Pharisee and a Publican. Both went up to the Temple to pray.** They practice the same religion, but they are not together. The Pharisee presents to God an impressive record: he has committed no sin, he fasts, he gives alms. All that he is proud of is undoubtedly true. The problem of this man is his pride. He is convinced of being just, but he has nothing but contempt for others. He is not content with giving blows of incense. At the same time, he examines the conscience of the publican. He did not understand that to be answered, we must be full of kindness and understanding for others, even if they are sinners. God wants the salvation of all men. Well at a distance, we have the publican. He is a man despised and even hated by all. He agreed with the Roman occupier. Moreover, he has extorted money from the people. He confesses to be a sinner and is recognized as guilty. He is at the bottom of the abyss. The only thing he can do is to implore God's forgiveness for him **"My God, have mercy on the sinner that I am."**

In telling us this Parable, Christ comes to announce Good News: He tells us that God is LOVE. **And this Love goes to Forgiveness.** All this is offered to us free of charge and without merit on our part. The one who believes he is superior to others has understood nothing. If we realize something good, it is not due to our merits but to the action of the Lord in us. He expects us to come to Him empty-handed to fill them with His love. **Let's not forget that He gave His life and shed His blood for us and for the multitude, including the tax collectors. He came to seek and save those who were lost. He is counting on us to love them and carry them in our prayers.**

By celebrating this Eucharist, we come to nourish ourselves with the Word of God and His Body. The Lord is given to us for us, He comes to fill us with strength to announce the Gospel. This strength is THE GRACE OF BAPTISM without ceasing to be revived by the Eucharist. We pray that all men may hear and welcome this Good News that you have come to bring to the world.

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

Dean of Northwest Broward Deanery of the Archdiocese Miami – October 26, 2025
