

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

“RENDER TO CAESAR THE THINGS THAT ARE CAESAR’S...”



On this 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, we hear the words that speak directly to us. They remind us of our importance in God’s eyes and the role we play in relation to others; these are the words from the first reading: **“I have called you by name. I have given you a title; I am the Lord, and there is no other.”**

This good news was proclaimed to a people who had just spent fifty years in exile in a foreign land.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus sets things straight: **“Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”** Some might think Jesus is inviting us to make a clear division between the two realms. For many, it is “the week for Caesar and Sunday for God.” But that is not what Jesus asks of us. **To render to God what belongs to God “means recognizing, in the face of any kind of power, that God is the Lord of man and that there is no other”** (Pope Francis). To render to God what belongs to God means opening ourselves to His will and cooperating with His Kingdom of mercy, love, and peace.

As we celebrate this Eucharist, Lord, we wish to render to You what is Yours. We offer You all the acts of faith, hope, and charity that mark our lives and the lives of all our brothers and sisters.

Together with You, **we commit ourselves to doing everything so that love may triumph over hatred and violence.** Be with us, that the Gospel may be proclaimed throughout the whole world. Amen.

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

Dean of Northwest Broward Deanery of the Archdiocese Miami – October 18, 2026