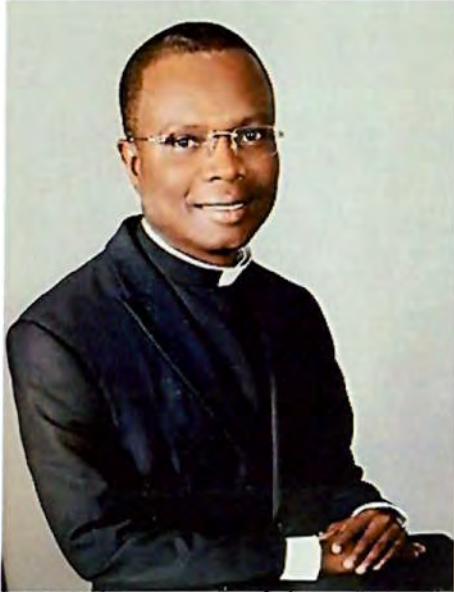


WORD FROM THE PASTOR

THE THREE PS FORMULA OF JESUS: PRESENCE, PRAYER, AND WORD



My brothers and sisters in Christ, in today's Gospel we have the portrait of a typical day of Jesus which we can summarize as: **"The three Ps for Presence, Prayer and Word"**. Throughout Jesus' public ministry, His days were lived most of the time on this model: presence, prayer, and word.

Let's start with **Presence**. This is a presence of Jesus in the ordinary lives of people. He lives with His disciples as the days go by. Here we see Him stopping with them in the family of two of them, Simon - which is another name for Saint Peter - and Andrew, his brother, the first who followed Him. They arrived unexpectedly and found Simon-Pierre's mother-in-law had a fever. **Jesus is touched, and He simply walks over, takes her hand, and makes her stand up.** The fever leaves her. Immediately she is on her feet.

This beautiful gesture of Jesus is by no means an isolated gesture. In front of people who are in need and/or in dire need, He helps. He does this within the framework of family closeness and warmth. He thus wants to be present in the

lives and concerns of those He meets. The people understand Him well and Saint Mark tells us that they run after Him. **"The whole city crowded to His door."**

Being present with others cannot be experienced in isolation. It supposes an opening. Where can we draw this opening? The response that Jesus gives us, through His example here, is that of prayer. What is His prayer? Today's Gospel does not give details, but we know from other passages of the Gospels that in His prayer, Jesus never ceased to cry out **"Abba, Father"**. **Presence, Prayer, and as the third Priority of Jesus' days we detect that of the word.** This is quite normal, you might say. Jesus devoted His public life to preaching. **"Presence, Prayer, Word"** was the **"Metro, Work, Sleep"** of Jesus.

These three elements: **Presence, Prayer, Predication** can also be experienced by everyone in their condition of life. They will reflect our Christian identity. They will make us evangelizers, missionary disciples. It was Saint Paul who said in the second Reading: **"Woe to me if I did not proclaim the Gospel"**. We are not Saint Paul, but we can bear witness to the Good News which gives us life, to the presence of the Risen Christ. May this Sunday Eucharistic celebration make us disciples more and more fascinated by Jesus, and may it support us through His presence in the Bread and the Wine which are the food He left us to accomplish this mission of **announcing the Gospel, the Good News, to the ends of the earth.**

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time; February 4, 2024

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