

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

AUTHENTIC LIVING FAITH IN LOVE OF GOD AND NEIGHBOR



My brothers and sisters, on this Sunday's readings the word of the Lord wants to help us discover what God says to us and how He wants us to guide their lives. The word He addresses to the people show us that He is a liberating God. This is what happened to the people of Israel when they were slaves in Egypt: under the leadership of Moses, God freed them from this dramatic situation. The Bible tells us how they crossed the Red Sea and walked in the desert to reach the Promised Land. Today, we discover that God wants to take them to a new level: by giving them His law, He offers them a passport to freedom. Indeed, only free people have a law. The others are subject to arbitrariness and violence; we see this every day. We live in a world that suffers because of this

violence and injustice. But the author of the book of Deuteronomy comes to tell us that God has never stopped loving us. The law He gives to His people is summed up in two parts: Love God and love all our brothers.

The first part concerns God: "You shall love the Lord your God". This commandment is a response to the creator God who constantly takes the first step towards us. He is passionate about love for the world. Outside of Him, there is no possible happiness. It is on Him that we are invited to build our life. It is not enough to accomplish religious gestures. The alliance between God and men is a story of passionate love.

The second part concerns the love of our neighbor. It is about avoiding everything that can harm others. Later, Jesus will reveal to us that God is a Father Who loves each of His children. His Love is for all without exception. If we harm someone, it is against God that we sin. The greater a love, the more we see what offends Him. This is important for us today. We live in a world that suffers from violence, indifference, contempt, and all kinds of misfortunes. Our mission is to live differently and to bring love to it.

Saint James invites us precisely not to fall into illusion. He reminds us that our inner disposition must be translated to the eyes of all by our way of life. It is in love lived in actions that inner love for God and His creatures finds its indisputable verification. Brothers and sisters, today's texts remind us that man is one before God. He cannot say

one thing or do another. The heart and the hand cannot be dissociated. Together, they give a true testimony to the faith proclaimed by the mouth.

On this day, we ask the Lord, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin, to give us a pure heart, free from all hypocrisy. Thus, we will be able to live according to the spirit of the law and achieve its goal which is LOVE.

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September 1, 2024