

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

SERVING GOD AND SELF-SURRENDER IN HUMILITY



This week's scriptures invite us to surrender our lives to God with a humble and generous heart, by serving others lovingly and sacrificially. With this poor widow it is not poetry, neither a beautiful story, nor an invitation to share with this poor widow. No! The message here is above all spiritual. It invites us to look at how God reaches out to humanity that is wounded and estranged from Him.

We can highlight the contrast between the scribes and the widow. The scribes are at the top of the social ladder. They are content with appearances. They present themselves as good practitioners and do-gooders. They are proud of their practices, and they forget to put their heart into them.

The widow at the bottom of the social ladder presents herself with humility, in her poverty and she puts her whole heart into the gesture she makes. She gives everything... she gives what she has to live... she "gives her life".

The message that emerges from this contrast is that our God is reached by those who put everything in His hands, like this widow who leaves everything she has in the temple, who comes to offer her whole life. Her heart is filled with abandonment and openness. It will be filled with the love of God because God cannot reject the one who sincerely offers Him his whole life, all that he is. Indeed, Jesus teaches us that God loves those who not only hear His Word, but who accept it with joy and also put it into practice (Luke 8:21).

Let us learn to appreciate the widows and widowers of our parish community. Their loneliness draws them closer to God and to stewardship in the parish. They are often active participants in all the liturgical celebrations, offering prayers for their families and for their parish family. Let us, like the poor widow, find the courage to share the wealth and talents we hold.

Very Rev. Fr. Lucien Eugene Pierre Ph.D., Pastor, VF – November 10, 2024