

# WORD FROM THE PASTOR

## GOOD IS STRONGER THAN EVIL, LIFE IS STRONGER THAN DEATH



My brothers and sisters, let us begin with the prophet Daniel. What is described concerns the situation of the Jews at that time. They were persecuted by a king who wanted to eliminate them, Antiochus Epiphanes around 175 BC. They lived in distress. They were crushed. Some questioned their faith. It was a distress situation that seemed insurmountable.

And the message that the prophet brought was that there was a way out that, even if it was not visible now, would be a day of joy and a day of liberation.

In other words, good would triumph over evil. Victory was assured. The twists and turns engage life now, but in the end, they would not prevent good from triumphing. This was a message that the Jews received with joy. Their faith was rewarded later when the One they were waiting for came, Jesus the Savior of the world, the Messiah. God's action in the world never lets itself be stopped, whatever the turmoil of history. They will always be temporary. It is God's love that will triumph.

In the gospel, Jesus' images are powerful. Yes! Here again, the message given by Jesus is a message of hope like that of Daniel. Evil may surround us, but it will not triumph. It is good, love, that will have the last word. A new world will arise where God "will wipe away every tear from our eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain; the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21:4).

We are no longer "in that time" of course, in the time of Antiochus Epiphanes or Nero, we live "in this time". And as "in those days" however, the clouds are important in today's world. Believers and the Church are experiencing difficult times: disaffection of people, the shelving of religion, the after-effects of sexual abuse, etc. to name a few.

The baptized await the Return of Christ in hope. This expectation does not take them out of the present realities that they live in faith. Despite the distress, the misfortunes, the difficulties, they have the promise that LOVE will have the last word, that the new world will come.

It is towards this world that we are all heading. It does not prevent us from living in it. On the contrary, it is because we are well inserted in it that we can, like the fig tree, see new shoots appear. Let us ask the Lord for His grace to trust and live in His presence with HOPE, ASSURANCE, AND PERSEVERANCE.

***Very Rev. Fr. Lucien Eugene Pierre Ph.D., Pastor, VF – November 17, 2024***