

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

THE POWER OF CHRIST THROUGH HIS WORDS



My dear The word of God this Sunday addresses us with a message of hope. They come to remind us of God's presence and love. Through the prophets of old and today, it is he who answers us and speaks to us. His only concern is to save all of humanity.

It's this good news that we find all throughout the Old Testament, especially in today's first reading. This reading brings us to the end of Moses' life. Before he dies, he promises his people that God will not abandon them. He will continue to guide and teach them, even after the departure of Moses: "A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you from among your brethren, like unto me; and ye shall hear

him." The apostle Peter recognizes that he alone has the word of everlasting life. Our response should be an attitude of listening and welcoming. **"Today we do not harden our hearts but listen to the voice of the Lord."**

Today's Gospel tells us about Jesus' first sermon. He is THE prophet who teaches with authority. He came to reveal the Father to us and to teach us the meaning of the Scriptures. In His presence, we are called to be disciples, people who listen to Him and follow Him.

The Gospel insists that Jesus teaches with authority. It is the Word of the Father, the Word of God. In him dwells the fullness of the divine. And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; that spirit did not stop him from coming to the synagogue to hear Jesus' teaching. The Gospel should be received as a call to faith. This should be a loving attachment and not just a simple acquaintance.

Welcome this Gospel as good news, Jesus came to destroy everything that keeps us from being ourselves, which is our identity, especially evil spirits that turn us away from God. Later, he will give that power to his disciples. The Word of God manifested in Jesus is far more powerful than all demons and all evil spirits. **With Him, evil cannot have the last word.**

Like others in the synagogue, Jesus Himself rebukes the communities gathered in His name in all the churches of the world. He makes us understand His Word. He comes to set us free from all our possessions. Open us to this self-healing Word. With Him, our actions and our whole lives will become consistent with that word. In welcoming Christ, the liberator, may we sing with even greater fervor: **"Thy Word, Lord, is truth, and Thy law is salvation."**
Amen!

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Dean of Northwest Broward of the Archdiocese Miami – February 2, 2025