

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

MERCIFUL LIKE OUR FATHER IS MERCIFUL



My brothers and sisters in Christ, listening to the Gospel of this Sunday, many may say to themselves that the world is upside down; it accumulates situations that are impossible to manage at first glance: loving one's enemies, doing good to those who hate us, praying for those who slander us, turning the other cheek to the one who struck first. We live in a world where many think only of doing justice to themselves.

To understand this Gospel, we must look to Christ: He was harassed throughout His ministry; He was rejected, humiliated, and condemned to die on a cross. His last prayer was: "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." His love went so far as to forgive and give His life. He Himself asks us to love one another as He has loved us (as much as He has loved us).

We must never forget that the Gospel is first and foremost the book of God's mercy. It is by reading and rereading it regularly that we discover this revelation: Everything that Jesus said and accomplished is an expression of this mercy of the Father. He welcomed the excluded, He forgave; He came to seek and save those who were lost. He came to fill us with the superabundance of His love, and all this without merit on our part.

But not everything has been written in this book. The Gospel of mercy remains an open book; it must be filled with all the signs of Christ's Love. These concrete gestures of love that we are called to give are the best testimony of mercy. This is how we will become living witnesses of the Gospel, bearers of the good news. It is by our love that we will be recognized as disciples of Christ. How can we speak of God's mercy if we ourselves do not forgive?

Certainly, we can ask ourselves: are we capable of being merciful like the Father? Can we behave, in today's world, like Jesus, the Christ? What seems impossible to men, left to themselves, is possible to God. Yes, we can, if we let ourselves be transformed by the Holy Spirit; He is the strength of God in our innermost being He is the power of life for the body of Christ, the Church of the Lord. "Be merciful as your Father is merciful."

***Very Rev. Fr. Lucien Eugene Pierre Ph.D., Pastor, VF
Dean of Northwest Broward of the Archdiocese Miami – February 23, 2025***