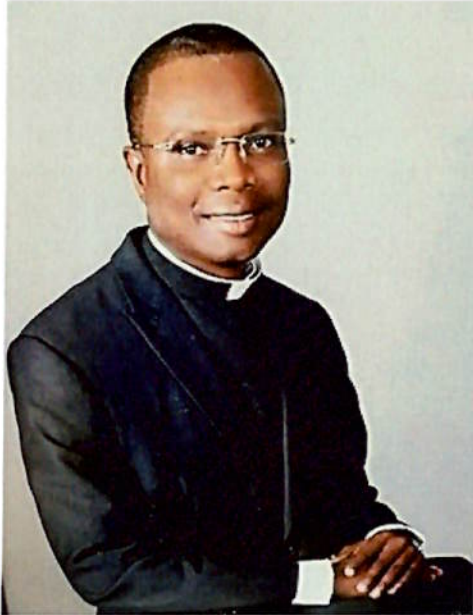


# WORD FROM THE PASTOR

## **CHRIST-LIKE FAITHFULNESS IN BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, the texts of the liturgy of this 26th Sunday highlight the inconsistencies that may exist in our judgments. The prophet Ezekiel addresses a people deported far from their native land. The Jewish nation was scattered in pagan lands. Many believe that it is because of the faults of previous generations that they are suffering such a catastrophe. The prophet reacts against this mentality: he reminds everyone of their responsibilities; it is also important for us: we are all called to reorient our lives towards the Lord and to follow Him.

In the Second Reading, Saint Paul gives us details on what this conversion should be. He speaks to us of fraternal life, of humility and even of self-abasement. Our model must be Christ. He accepted death out of love for us. It was this attitude that made Him triumph. In the Gospel, Jesus tells us the parable of the two sons who are sent by their father to work in his vineyard. We

all know these children who say yes but do nothing. When we ask them to do something, they know how to say a convincing yes, but an hour later, we find them in front of their television or immersed in their cell phone without having moved a finger. Through this observation, Jesus challenges us about our life: you have beautiful words, but you do not do what God expects of you. Your life is not in accordance with what you claim to be. You think you are perfect, but you are not converted.

Today too we hear the Word of the Father: "My son, go and work in my vineyard today!" This vine is the Kingdom of God, Kingdom of love, justice, and peace. This is where God wants to bring together all men, including those who are far from Him. To work in the Vineyard of the Lord is to participate in this work of bringing people together, it is to bear witness to the faith and hope that inhabit us. We are all sent into this world to be messengers of the Gospel. It is through our love that we will be recognized as disciples of Christ. Our parish is the field of ministries the Lord calls us to work. It is up to all of us to respond with generosity and sincerity to say yes to the Lord. It is yes that we must renew daily through our prayers and our actions.

*Very Rev. Father Lucien Eugene Pierre, Ph.D., VF*