

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

ACTING IN THE NAME OF JESUS



"Acting in the name of God, of Jesus", this is the message of today's readings. Let's take a closer look. All the baptized, as Saint Paul says to the Romans, receive gifts from the Spirit that differ according to the grace granted to them (Romans 12:6). And God pours out these gifts in abundance according to the vocation of each person.

We see that the gestures and actions of people filled with the presence of the Spirit sometimes arouse astonishment and questions. These are not anonymous gestures. They are called "miracles" by Jesus regarding the evil spirits that are cast out. They are also gestures of ordinary life that are filled with the presence of the Spirit, such as giving a glass of water, Jesus says: "And whoever gives you a glass of water in the name of Christ, amen, I

say to you, he will not remain without reward".

"Acting in the name of Jesus" in the Spirit is not always easy things to do. It is first letting appear in everyday life the source from which we drink. In your family, with the people you meet, in your interests and hobbies, you let shine through, even when you do not think about it, this source that is in you. Belonging to Christ is not a fantasy, but it is giving your very self that is your entire life. You can truly say then like Saint Paul: "My life is Christ" (Philippians 1:21). We must allow the Light of Christ shine in us before He can shine through us. You can, without pride and with humility, affirm that you act "in the name of Jesus" because you have let Him take all the space in you. To succeed in progressing on this path of our union with Christ, prayer is one of the privileged ways. Recollecting ourselves either in private or in a group around the Word of God nourishes our closeness to Jesus. Prayer thus allows us to hear in our hearts the inspirations that Jesus himself puts there.

The common thread of our readings has led us on the road "in the name of Jesus". Yes, it is always "in His name" that the baptized proclaims his faith in life at ground level, in everyday life. That is the concrete way of walking in the presence of God for us Christians; it is to walk in truth and in charity.

May this journey now be embodied during this Eucharist in the gestures and words of the Eucharistic Celebration where the priest "acting in the name of Christ" (Decree on the

Ministry and Life of Priests of Vatican II n. 2 and n. 12) repeats the gestures and repeats the very words of Jesus who thus continues to be the heart and life of the community and of each faithful who welcome Him in faith.

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