

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

MUTUAL RESPECT IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST LOVE AND CHARITY



My brothers and sisters in Christ, on this 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C, the parables of the gospel show that the deep reality is at first elusive. Only our work and the fruits of our actions can reveal it. We could take the words of Christ as instructions for action to be applied to the letter. It is an inspiration and a wisdom. **What Christ is sked of us is respect, where charity begins.** Each man or woman is linked to God by a direct link and that is this bond, the bond of son to Father, which finds our mutual respect.

Here we are no longer in the equality of two blind people suffering from identical blindness. If one can say so, the one who has the beam in his eye is more blind than the one who suffers only from the chaff. As a first approximation, we can say that everyone is invited to clean their homes, to see themselves as they are before thinking of playing the righting of wrongs.

Beyond this immediate meaning, I see another, which stems from what has just been said: as soon as we get involved in correcting someone, we drive the beam into our own eye, for we set ourselves up as judges, thus taking the place of God. Here we are in fundamental sin. Besides that, what is the wretched speck in our brother's eye? He sees it much clearer than us. Once we have renounced this claim, then we will see clearly in our turn.

The help we give to our brother will no longer be tainted with blindness to ourselves. It will be a humble service. The service of the good man who draws good things from his good heart. To draw something from oneself is to produce fruits. The connection with the above does not appear at first sight. Let us be renewed, let's grow; let's not try to separate the wheat from the chaff before the time (Matthew 13,24-31 and Mark 4,26-29). **Again Respect.**

Let our prayer be that our own blindness be cured. Then, God might be able to use us to help others. Let us also remember: **Our mission with the Church is to heal, to restore, and to bring back LIFE, JOY, AND HOPE as we are all working for the spiritual and psychological wellbeing of our brothers and sisters who have fallen short.**

***Very Rev. Fr. Lucien Eugene Pierre Ph.D., Pastor, VF
Dean of Northwest Broward of the Archdiocese Miami – March 2, 2025***