

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

WE ARE ALL CALLED AND SENT



Today we celebrate the feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. During the week, we also celebrated Saint John the Baptist. All three have in common to have been witnesses of Christ until martyrdom. **John the Baptist prepared the coming of the Messiah. Peter and Paul announced the good news; They have witnessed the action of God through their ministry. They showed a God who supports his witnesses and who saves his people from his enemies.** The first reading tells us what happened after the death of Jesus. The apostles left to announce the Gospel; a Christian community was born. Today more than ever, men, women and even children are massacred because of their faith in Jesus Christ. Their testimony challenges us: "What did you do about your

baptism?" We cannot be disciples of Christ by settling into a quiet life of indifference and mediocrity. In the second reading, it is Paul who gives his testimony. Addressing Timothée, he describes his daily struggle. To the end, he strove to announce the Gospel and make it known to the heathen nations. It is the Lord who has given him the strength to be good. And it is also thanks to the action of the Holy Spirit who precedes us in the hearts of those who are on our way.

In the Gospel, we see Jesus asking an important question to his disciples: **"Who is the Son of Man, according to what men say?"** Several answers are given. For others, it is Jeremiah or one of the prophets of old... Then there is this answer from Peter: **"You are Christ, the Son of the living God."** It is on this faith of Peter that Jesus is committed to building his Church.

What is surprising is that twenty centuries after this revelation, both men and women do not even recognize the prophetic aspects that were attributed to Jesus at the time. We see this every day: the Jesus we believe in is mocked, insulted, denigrated, and slandered. He became the enviable subject of mockers. Some so-called humorous shows show a lamentable lack of respect. This should never discourage us. We must take it as a call to testify even more. Like Bernadette of Lourdes, we are not charged with making believe but with tirelessly enduring. **Nothing must stop the proclamation of the Gospel.**

It is important for us today. If we are Christians, it is because others have raised the roof and placed us before God. This roof is that of an indifferent or hostile society. **"Today, we are asked to open the roof of our society, the roof of our conscience, and to decide to place all our brothers before Jesus, and to give us evil for this... We prayed, Lord, to make us lift the roofs, open the doors, and cry this reality." (Cardinal Bergoglio)**

What will save the world is the faith of Christians. The Lord counts on our faith, a radiant and communicative faith. We cannot content ourselves with being lukewarm Christians or consumers who demand services from the Church. Being a Christian is a lifelong commitment. On this Sunday, we hear the urgent call of the Lord: Go to the squares and the parish! Go to the streets and look for friends... Go to the streets and be my witness every day.

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Dean of Northwest Broward of the Archdiocese Miami – June 29, 2025
