

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

AN INCLUSIVE DIVINE LOVE



Today's scriptures for this 15th Sunday in the ordinary time tell us about the great commandment of love of God and neighbor. Moïse reminds the people of Israel that this law is not beyond our strength nor beyond our reach. It is inscribed in the hearts of men, even those who do not know it. **Before being a face, God is a voice capable of reaching closer to our heart.**

This is the Great Commandment of Love of God and the neighbor. The scribes and the Pharisees were arguing face to face. For them, their neighbor is the one who is part of their loved ones. The injured man on the side of the road is excluded. The two religious leaders who passed by him turned away. They do not want to be rendered impure by contact with the blood of this man; this impurity would prevent them from celebrating worship in the temple. But today, Jesus made this mentality explode. We cannot truly honor the Lord if we abandon the excluded to their sad fate. **THE LOVE OF GOD CANNOT GO WITHOUT THE LOVE OF THE NEIGHBOR.**

In this gospel, the believers so called good did not have the good part. **The only example that Jesus gives us is a Samaritan: He is a despised man. But the law of love that the Gospel speaks about is also inscribed in His heart.** He stopped and approached the man. The neighbor is the one who shows kindness towards the wounded. Addressing the religious leaders, Jesus made them understand that beautiful talk is not enough. The first thing is action; it's all done to help the wounded to revive and regain that dignity. Therefore, to love my neighbor is to love Christ who has come close. **To love like Christ, we turn to Him. Saint Paul tells us that Jesus is the image of the invisible God.**

Our responsibility is to accomplish this creative work of God. Of course, there is no excuse for not doing anything: "I don't have time... I don't know these people... I am afraid of strangers..." At this moment, we risk missing the most important meeting of our lives. **Through the poor, it is Christ Who is there. Remind us of the last judgment Gospel (Mt 25): "I was hungry... I was sick... I was a stranger... and you didn't receive Me".**

By telling us the parable of the good Samaritan, Christ would like to encourage us to fill our lives with the love that is in Him and to make the next of those He puts on our path.

We pray on this day to the Lord that He makes us live like the Samaritan who was given mercy and raised the wounded. May our heavenly Father make us resemble His Son Jesus, Who has become the neighbor of each one of us. Amen!

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