

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

JUSTICE AND FRATERNITY



Justice and fraternity, this is the call of this 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Today, Jesus invites us to seriously reflect on two opposing lifestyles: the worldly style and the style of the Gospel, the spirit of the world and the spirit of Jesus. To help us better understand His message, Jesus tells us the parable of the unfaithful and corrupt manager: he is about to be fired for serious misconduct; from now on, he will find himself on the street, empty-handed. He quickly considers the best solution. He thinks he can gain the goodwill of his master's debtors by reducing their debt. This is how he chooses to secure his future.

Of course, there is no question of approving this deceit. What is highlighted is the skill of the "sons of this world." When it comes to their own personal interests, they know how to find solutions. **Christ would have it that the "sons of light" were as skillful so that money could serve everyone. Pope Francis invited us "to respond to this worldly cunning with Christian value, which is a gift of the Holy Spirit." It is about distancing ourselves from worldly values to live according to the Gospel.**

The first reading addresses a powerful proclamation from the prophet Amos. He harshly attacks disorder, inequality, and the exploitation of the poor. He denounces the deception of goods. When we take advantage of the dependence of the weakest to exploit them even more, it is intolerable. Amos is no longer with us, but his message is more relevant than ever: we must realize that more than half of the world's wealth is held by one percent of the population. And what about the swindles of all kinds, the deception of goods, and the internet scams? **If Amos were here, he would denounce modern-day slavery. It is urgent that we heed Amos's call to build a more just and fraternal world.**

In the second reading, we have the testimony of Saint Paul. Greed is truly not his problem. On the contrary, he placed himself at the service of faith and truth. **He proclaims a God Who desires the salvation of all men.** Jesus died for all, including those who hold political responsibilities. **True prayer is speaking to God about His plan, entering His plan, and imbuing ourselves with it.** With Him, we will become capable of spreading the good news like wildfire. **Christ calls us to choose between the spirit of the world and Him, between the logic of corruption and greed and that of rectitude, gentleness and sharing.**

Saint Teresa of Calcutta understood this message well: These friends are the poorest of the poor, the destitute, the excluded. Through them, it is Jesus who is there. Every time we put ourselves at their service, it is Him we serve. The main friendship we must seek is that of God. **In a few days, as we enter the month of the Rosary, we ask the Virgin Mary to help us choose the right path. It is with Her that we will find the courage to go against the current to follow Jesus and his Gospel.**

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Dean of Northwest Broward Deanery of the Archdiocese Miami – September 21, 2025
