

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

REJOICING IN THE LORD WITH FAITH AND HOPE



My brothers and sisters in Christ, today the Gospel speaks to us of happiness. It's a subject that is close to all our hearts. We all want to be happy. Men and women are fighting for better living conditions. **This Gospel invites us to think about all those who are painfully afflicted by illness, accidents, family tensions, and generational conflicts. And then there is also loneliness, unemployment, and precariousness that make us so vulnerable to the future. Those who left their countries in search of a better life.** And yet, on the mountain, Jesus sees only happy people. No, this is not a provocation; He simply wants to invite us to look beyond appearances.

The important thing is to welcome this Gospel as good news for the little ones, the poor, the excluded, all those who are overwhelmed by all kinds of misfortunes. Jesus proclaims them happy, not because of all the suffering that has befallen them, but because the Kingdom of God belongs to them. Thanks to Him, their lives regain new meaning, and they can move forward again. **This encounter with Christ becomes for each of them the starting point of great hope.** It is an invitation for us to place all our trust in God. He alone can fill us with His riches. This gift is offered to us freely, without any merit on our part.

The problem is that some of these poor people no longer have the strength to get up. **We must hear and respect their cry of suffering. Jesus welcomed the sick, the lepers, the paralyzed, the sinners. He forgave, healed, and lifted them up.** Today, He counts on us to bring Him to all those we encounter on our path. When we go to meet them, it is not just a gesture of friendship. Jesus is there, near us or within us. With Him, our visits become "visitations." **It is always a great joy when the Lord comes into someone's life.**

This Gospel therefore sends us a message of the utmost importance. In the past, we were taught the commandments of God and the Church, as well as a few prayers. But most of us were not taught this Gospel of the Beatitudes. And yet, it is the key to the good news. **It shows us Jesus coming to meet us in the heart of our lives, our joys, and our sorrows.** He constantly opens the door for us to encounter Him. **He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one goes to the Father without encountering Him.** And when everything goes wrong, it is He who carries us.

So, let us not hesitate to draw near to Him. An encounter with Him is the opportunity of a lifetime. It is by choosing to follow Him that we find true happiness.

So yes, Lord, we come to you. You are the way that leads us to true life, to the joy of being sons and daughters of God in You. You ask us to give You our misery, our imbalances, our weaknesses. You are able to take all of this in Your love to give us Your life forever.

Very Rev. Fr. Lucien Eugene Pierre Ph.D., Pastor, VF

Dean of Northwest Broward Deanery of the Archdiocese Miami – February 1, 2026
