

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

GOD'S HUMANITY VS. MAN'S



This Sunday's Scripture readings invite us to discover the true face of God. In the past, He was often portrayed as a vengeful God Who mercilessly condemned all the enemies of His people. Indeed, the abominations committed by the pagans were shocking. And yet, God did not exterminate them. He showed extraordinary patience toward them. His great desire has always been for the sinner to repent and live. This applies even to the enemies of His people; He grants that possibility to them all.

The great message of this first reading is that, ultimately, **God is more humane than man. This is important for our world today.** A major problem in our society is the rise of intolerance. When a man or woman is defined by a bad reputation, they are often denied a second chance. **Today, we turn to the Lord, asking Him to grant us a measure of humanity. May He teach us to see this world as He sees it with a gaze full of love.**

We find this same message in the Gospel. **We know the parable of the wheat and the weeds well, for we have heard it often; the man who sows the good seed is God. We must not forget what is said in the first account of Creation: "God saw that it was good." Everything that comes from God is beautiful and good. The good seed is planted by God. It bears repeating: God gives us nothing but good seed.**

The problem is that, instead of "watching over the crop," we fall asleep. We settle into routine and complacency; we forget the Lord and His Gospel. While people slept, the enemy came. He always comes while we are asleep. It is not without reason that Jesus asks us to watch and pray so as not to succumb to temptation. This is what happened to Peter, James, and John in the Garden of Olives on the eve of Jesus's death. **We must never forget that our Christian life is a daily battle against "the enemy." The priority is the good seed sown by the Lord.**

The enemy, however, does not sleep. He is always on the lookout to sow weeds. In Greek, the word for weeds implies something that chokes the good crop; yet there is hope: the weeds and tares will not have the final word. But even though it is vacation time, we must not spend our time sleeping. We must remain vigilant.

In the second reading, **Saint Paul invites us to turn to our God. Yet, left to our own devices, we are quite incapable of doing so. That is when the Lord intervenes to give us His Holy Spirit. With Him, we become capable of opening ourselves to the Father's love and responding to His will. The true God is not One Who crushes His enemies. He reveals Himself to us as a God full of love who desires the salvation of all people. Lord, we pray to You: teach us to follow You on the path of acceptance and tolerance. Through This Eucharist, come and renew our Faith and our Trust in Your love. Amen.**

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