

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

FINDING A MEANINGFUL LIFE IN CHRIST



Brothers and sisters, the Church gives us to celebrate today the 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A. The liturgy of this day gives us to meditate on our walk and our commitment as disciples following Christ. Do you know where the name we give ourselves when we say we are “Christians” comes from? It’s easy to answer... You guessed it, of course. Hey yeah! The word Christian comes from “Christ”. It seems otherwise. **A Christian is one who takes Jesus Christ as his model, he is one who desires to follow Jesus Christ.** Is it a commitment without pain, without suffering, without persecution? without a cross? or then a path or is everything just butter or chocolate?

Jesus calling us to be his disciples does not guarantee that everything will be rosy afterwards. That is why he invites each of us to take up our cross to follow him. **In the first reading Jeremiah was seduced by God, and he says that he was seduced.** The latter quickly realizes that because of his calling and the word he proclaims he is mocked and insulted. He would have wanted to get away from God’s designs, no longer proclaiming the good news. Alas, he realized that the mission he now had was far more important still and that he had to wear that cross jealousy and proudly.

In our daily lives, we often get insulted, ridiculed, receive rude and insulting remarks because of our mission or because we want to do what we have to do. This can even lead to physical violence and atrocities that violate our integrity. What is sad and painful is that this treatment comes to us from those to whom we are sent, those we want to save, those to whom we reach out to lift them out of their precariousness. They are sick, but they think they are healthier than you. They ignore and refuse to ignore the evil they suffer.

We must know this and keep in mind that the world will never take us in peace because of who we are and that it rhythmically contradicts the Gospel we bring to the world and the commandments we try to put into practice in our daily lives. In inviting us to take up our cross Jesus also invites us to take our share of suffering for the proclamation of the good news, to share in his redemptive sacrifice. **To accept the cross is to agree to enter the ongoing process that leads to glorification with Jesus. Jesus by accepting to carry His cross and His suffering traces a route for us.**

To help us this Sunday in accepting the cross to be a disciple of Christ, St. Paul tells us: not to take for a model the present world that offers us salvation through knowledge and material riches but to cling to the decrees of the Lord Himself, to transform our way of thinking will of the Lord ; what is good, what is able to please Him what is perfect and remain there truly hang on. Finally, present our bodies to Him; our whole person in living sacrifice can please Him.

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Dean of Northwest Broward Deanery of the Archdiocese Miami – August 23, 2026