

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

" LIVING AS BROTHERS AND SISTERS THROUGH THE ACTION OF THE SPIRIT"



Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, the Readings this Sunday call out the inconsistencies that can exist in our judgments. This was the situation in Ezekiel's time. The prophet addresses a people deported far from their homeland; the Jewish nation had been scattered across pagan lands. Many believed they were suffering such a catastrophe because of the sins of previous generations. The prophet challenges this mindset, reminding each person of their own responsibilities—a message that is equally important for us, as we are all called to reorient our lives toward the Lord and follow Him.

Saint Paul clarifies what this conversion should look like. He speaks to us of fraternal life, humility, and even self-emptying. **Christ must be our model; He accepted death out of love for His brothers and sisters.** It was this attitude that led to His triumph—a triumph over death and sin in which He wishes us all to share. To share His mindset means being wholly oriented toward the salvation and well-being of others.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the two sons sent by their father to work in his vineyard. We all know the kind of children who say "yes" but do nothing. When asked to do something, they can give a convincing "yes," yet an hour later, you find them in front of the TV or engrossed in their mobile phones without having lifted a finger. Through this observation, Jesus challenges us regarding our own lives: **"You speak fine words, but you do not do what God expects of you.** Your lives do not align with who you claim to be. You believe yourselves to be perfect, yet you have not truly converted."

Beyond the high priests and the elders, Jesus also speaks to each of us; it is to us that He puts the question: "Which of the two did the Father's will?" The answer is ours to give, but we must not forget to act upon it: **we cannot be content with good sentiments, noble resolutions, or fervent prayers**—though these are certainly necessary—**for if our actions do not follow, we are not truly converted.** A simple visit to the sick counts for more than a fine speech about illness; an act of forgiveness carries more weight than a treatise on peace. Today, we hear the Father's word: **"My son, go and work in my vineyard today!" This vineyard is the Kingdom of God—a Kingdom of love, justice, and peace.** It is there that God wishes to gather all people, including those who are far from Him.

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

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