

# WORD FROM THE PASTOR

## WE ARE ALL INVITED TO THE LORD'S VINEYARD



Once again, this week, the liturgy speaks to us of the vineyard. A vineyard is not merely a crop like any other; above all, it is a passion. A winegrower's greatest joy is showing us his vineyard and his cellar; his greatest sorrow is seeing a vineyard abandoned—left to brambles, thorns, and wild boars. The prophet Isaiah draws upon this relationship between the winegrower and his vineyard to speak to us about God and His people. For the prophet, this vineyard represents the people of Israel. God is portrayed as a master who did everything for it. Yet, God's passionate love meets with disappointment.

This biblical text speaks to us today. **Throughout our lives, we are invited to recognize God's tenderness toward us.** God loves us all with a passionate love. Yet, our response does not always measure up to that love; violence, lies, and betrayal are indeed present. He ceaselessly calls us to return to Him with all our hearts. Only then can our lives bear fruit—good fruit. We hear Paul's testimony. We often see Him taking a stern view of the behavior of the Gentiles, yet He also knows how to recognize their good qualities. Among them, **one finds acts of Hospitality, Sharing, and Solidarity.** A missionary's primary duty is to recognize all that is beautiful and noble in the people to whom he proclaims Jesus Christ.

The Gospel also speaks to us of the vineyard. But there is a difference. The problem lies not with the harvest, but with the vinedressers. They forgot that they were merely stewards, yet they began to act as if they were the owners. They kept the entire harvest of the vineyard for themselves. This Gospel speaks to each of us as well. **The Lord has entrusted the goods of the Kingdom to us; He has entrusted us with the Good News of the Kingdom of God.** We are sent to be its messengers. Yet we must not forget that we are not acting on our own behalf, but the Lord's.

We live in a world that seeks to cast Him out, but His crucified Love will prove stronger than anything else. **It is through Him that our lives will bear fruit.** We need the Lord's help. Sin is always present in our lives, turning us away from Him; yet **God can always bring good out of evil.** He transformed Peter's threefold denial into an opportunity for a threefold declaration of love, and in doing so, He was able to place even greater trust in Peter. **That same Christ can transform the worst criminals into saints; He is equally capable of making us His friends.** On this day, we pray to You, Lord: Grant that we may remain where You have placed us. **Grant that we may be good servants of Your Kingdom. Amen.**

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

***Dean of Northwest Broward Deanery of the Archdiocese Miami – October 4, 2026***