

Message from Deacon William

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we approach the beginning of this beautiful liturgical season of Lent, the Word of God invites us to reflect more deeply on the actions of our lives. In the first reading today, a proposal is made to us: *"Be holy, for I, the Lord, am holy."* What can be done to achieve this goal? On one occasion Jesus was asked what was the greatest commandment of the law: "You shall love the Lord with all your heart... You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mk 12:29-31) In this answer of Jesus is the key, LOVE is what leads us to find holiness.

There lies the key that Jesus wants to manifest to all those who listen to him, in his moment, beginning with his disciples and now with each one of us. The fulfillment of the law is in the love for God who is our Father and for our brother who we all are. In the previous Sundays, we can remember that he called us blessed, blessed... and it is a reality that when we follow in the footsteps of the Master and make his word come alive, we experience a positive change in us that affects all those who are closest to us: "our neighbor". Living the beatitudes for us Christians has to be a priority. How can we call ourselves Christians if we do not reflect the light of Christ in our lives, how can we be salt of the earth if we cannot show a transformation of life as the Lord teaches us?

Dear brothers and sisters, we are so valuable and loved by God that in spite of our faults, he invites us to reflect so that none of us are lost from the way of salvation. Last Sunday the Gospel spoke to us about reconciliation with our brother: *"If when you go to put your offering on the altar, you remember that your brother has complaints against you, leave the offering and go first to be reconciled with your brother."* Wonderful detail that makes me reflect that I need to be an instrument of peace to embark on the path to holiness. "I have to change my attitude", I must not believe that I alone am right and that the other is to blame; humility, above all, to be able to recognize that I am wrong and that I need to ask for forgiveness.

He who does not forgive his brother from his heart cannot hope to be forgiven by God. These words are so strong, but it is necessary to listen to them and reflect on them. The enemy wants us to live immersed in war and hatred, in adversity and destruction. Do you believe that there is a need for reconciliation among human beings?

It is time to ask for forgiveness, it is time to reflect, it is not possible to continue with this way of hurting ourselves. The Word of God is demanding for all men of good will. Today the Word invites us to live with a humble attitude, reconciled, living in holiness; we must be willing to make our life a simple path of fidelity to the love of Christ and our brothers and sisters, expressed in obedience for love of the law of God.

Your brother in Christ,

Deacon William C.