

GIVE TO GOD WHAT BELONGS TO GOD

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Year A

Theme: Give to God What Belongs to God

Readings: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b; Matthew 22:15-21.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today, Jesus gives us a very important message: "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." Through these words, Jesus invites us to reflect on a simple but profound question: Am I giving God the place He deserves in my life?

1. We belong to God

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks the Pharisees whose image is on the coin. They answer, "Caesar's." Jesus then tells them to give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.

The coin carries Caesar's image. But whose image do we carry? The Bible teaches us that every human person is created in the image and likeness of God. Our life, our talents, our abilities, and our opportunities are gifts from Him.

Therefore, giving God what belongs to God means more than attending Sunday Mass or saying our daily prayers. It means offering Him our hearts, our love, our time, and our entire lives.

We may fulfil our responsibilities at work and at home, but we must never forget our responsibility to God.

2. Our faith must be visible in our actions

Dear friends, we cannot separate our faith from our daily lives.

We may pray beautifully in church, but how do we treat our family members at home? We may receive Holy Communion, but are we willing to forgive those who have hurt us? We may pray for the poor, but do we show compassion when someone needs our help?

Our faith becomes meaningful when it changes the way we live.

When we speak the truth, forgive others, help someone in need, and treat every person with dignity, we give glory to God.

God does not ask only for our prayers; He wants our prayers to become love in action. The second reading reminds us of the importance of faith, love, and hope. Let us put our faith into practice, express our love through service, and remain hopeful even during difficult moments.

3. We are called to be missionaries

Today is also World Mission Sunday. Every Christian is called to share the love of Christ with others. We do not need to travel to a distant country to become missionaries. Our mission begins in our own homes, our parish, our workplace, and our neighborhood.

A kind word can give hope to someone who is discouraged. A visit can comfort a lonely person. A simple act of generosity can remind someone that God has not forgotten them.

Let us ask ourselves: Can others recognise Christ through my words, my behavior, and my love?

Dear brothers and sisters, the world needs not only people who speak about God, but people whose lives reflect His goodness.

Conclusion

As we celebrate the Eucharist today, let us remember this beautiful message:

The coin may carry Caesar's image, but our hearts must carry God's image. Let us give God our hearts through prayer, our hands through service, and our lives through faithful love.

May we become people of faith, love, and hope, bringing the light of Christ wherever we go.

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, everything we have and everything we are comes from You. Teach us to fulfil our responsibilities faithfully, to love our neighbors sincerely, and to place You first in our lives. Make us faithful disciples and joyful missionaries of Your Gospel. May our lives always reflect Your love. Amen.

May God bless you all. Amen.

FR. RICHARD ROSARIO

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