

Fr. Elizier's Homily at St. Michael's Church  
August 29 and 30, 2009

Father Dan,  
Deacon Andy.

My brothers and Sisters in Christ our Lord,

In the gospel, Jesus wants to bring us back to the essentials of our life. God does not judge us on many exterior observances. He judges us on the deep orientation of our life, on what goes out from our heart. All the evil that divides us and sometimes makes our life on earth a sort of hell comes from our heart. By that we mean that sin is not in the substance of the act but in the man that does the act. It is our bad heart that **separates** us from God and others. But we can convert our bad heart by allowing the Word of God to enter our heart. We must give the Word of God a chance to enter our heart. We can purify our heart allowing Jesus to wash it clean.

Jesus said: "This people **honors** me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me". These words of Jesus are verified every day in our experiences with each other when the source of our life is no longer God. It is God who puts in our heart an **infinite** love for him, a possibility to come back to him, to be filled with wonder at his gifts and to share with other people. I know that you already take advantage of this possibility. But you must take advantage again and again of this possibility, the possibility to come back to God and to be filled with wonder at his gifts and to share them with other people. It is in this way that you will be rewarded and will find eternal life.

For Jesus, we are not purified by washing our hands before eating, washing cups and washing dishes. It is the love of God and our love for each other that **purifies** us. What **purifies** us is the love that we have in our heart for each other. For Jesus again the pure way to practice religion is to come to the aid of the orphans, the widows and the poor.

I know that you already do this practice, the practice of coming to the aid of the poor ... but you must continue to do it again and again. For it is in this activity, the activity of helping each other, that we can meet God. This is how we can live in the joy of God. And this joy of God that lives in us permits us to **return** thanks to God.

For this reason, I want to say with the Virgin Mary, our mother, that "The Lord did wonderful things for me. Holy is his name", because you and the Lord looked with favor on me and my people. Dos-Palais is now a beautiful parish, an appealing parish and a welcoming parish:

We have built a rectory where the priest can live and a school where the children can learn. In this school all the children receive a hot meal every day; all the teachers are well paid to assure a good education of the children. We have a nurse to take care of them. Now we have clean water in the village, a project that everyone likes. The road into our village was very bad; now it is repaired. Also we have a Goat Project that makes the people very happy. Thanks to you I have been able to give a goat to one hundred families. Each family must return to me their first-born little goat so that I can give it to another family. And now we are building a new church that everyone

calls a cathedral! When you come to The Commons after mass I will show you pictures of the new church that you are building for my people.

In truth God passes through you, women and men of faith. He passes through you, women and men of love and generosity. He passes through you to accomplish all these works in Dos-Palais. May his name be blessed now and forever. Also, I bless the name of the Lord for each of you who helped with the building up of this new parish. I ask you again to continue your help.

If before, the people of Dos-Palais had no hope in their life, today they have the joy of living with pride and dignity. Thank you very much. God knows all. Your goodness will return to you a hundredfold. Be sure of our daily prayers. We carry you in our hearts. And last, in the name of all the people of Dos-Palais, I thank you again. May the God of hope continue to reward you generously for your acts of faith. May He continue to reward you with joy, grace and peace!