

FROM THE PASTOR

My brothers and sisters,

Today we celebrate the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. Christmas was forty days ago, and in the custom of Jewish Law, the child Jesus was brought to the Temple to be offered to the Lord. Mary and Joseph offered the sacrifice of “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons” (Luke 2:24). This was the offering not of the great and the powerful, but of the poor.

You see, God humbles Himself to get close to us. He is so in love with us, that He is not content to watch us, but to bend down and even enter our humanity! And when He becomes human, He does not go to the great palaces, or the mansions of the world. The King of the Universe is not found rubbing elbows with the politicians. Rather, He goes to the poor, the weak, the marginalized. Jesus goes to the lowest place, so that NOBODY will be afraid to go to Him.

There is no earthly way that Simeon should have recognized the coming of the Messiah – a child brought to the Temple was a common everyday affair. It was only by the grace of God and Simeon’s prayerful attentiveness that He was able to recognize the King of Glory, the “Light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory for ... Israel” (Luke 2:32).

God walks among us today, as well. Do we recognize His presence? Only if we spend time with Him in prayer can we really start to recognize His presence in our midst – in the Sacraments (especially the Eucharist), in the people around us (even those who annoy us), in the situations at hand. On this Feast Day, may we truly come to recognize God’s love moving in our lives – the Light of the World!