

DO NOT BE AFRAID

We have arrived at the twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, and it is a continuation of last Sunday's Gospel, where Jesus tells us that the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

From this statement, Jesus invited us, first to prayer, to ask the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his fields.

A second moment to which Jesus invited us was to become aware of our own mission as baptized Christians. Recognizing that the mission is not only for priests and religious, but for all baptized Christians.

Thus, the Gospel we have heard is also known as the discourse on the apostolic mission, where Jesus, being realistic, warns that the mission is not easy; there will be opposition, persecution, and real difficulties.

And that is why Jesus tells us, do not be afraid; he repeats it three times in this passage.

A clear example of how it is possible to overcome fear is found in the first reading, where the prophet Jeremiah, in carrying out his mission, faces rejection and opposition. Nevertheless, he demonstrates his faithfulness to God and to the mission entrusted to him.

This faithfulness of the prophet foreshadows the faithfulness of Christ and all the prophets of the Old Testament.

We cannot forget our Mexican martyrs, also known as Cristeros, who faced this fear and defended their faith, even giving their lives for it.

We recently commemorated the 100th anniversary of this Cristero persecution, this testament of faith. It is a clear example of how trusting in the word of God gives us the strength to dispel all fear.

Each of us faces different fears throughout our lives: loneliness, failure, rejection, and not achieving our goals.

But Jesus invites us in the Gospel, first and foremost, to trust in God's providence; He is the author of all good. But it also helps us recognize that we are precious to God, and that therefore He does not leave us alone, but assists us at every moment.

Jesus has invited us not to be afraid, but He also points out whom we should fear: the one who can cast our soul and body into the place of punishment. Therefore, we should not fear temptations, thinking they are impossible to overcome. Rather, we must discover in temptation an opportunity to show our faithfulness to Christ, and prevent temptation from permanently distancing us from Him.

Let us pray together to our Mother in Heaven, Mother of Trust, that she may obtain for us from God faithfulness to Him and abandonment to His providence. Amen.