

**Homily – Tuesday of the First Week in Ordinary Time
Pastoral Center Monthly Employee Mass – January 10, 2023**

God has certainly exalted man. He has cared for us with special affection. So much so, that He became one of us. Jesus came to teach us the path that leads to eternal life, the path of love. **He is the Way.** Some of his contemporaries wanted to silence him, asking him to retire, to forget about his “good news”. He was dangerous to them; he threatened their position and special interests. But Jesus did not back-down. He accepted the sufferings of his death on the cross for the good of all. He has forever marked-out for us the path to follow, the path of love for God and for neighbor. Any path that strays from love leads to failure. We can never give up on love, even if this leads us to the cross, like it happened to Jesus. We know by faith that the resurrection is always waiting for us. **We place our trust only in Jesus, our Lord.**

In the gospel of Mark, Jesus begins his activity by expelling an enemy of God, one of those who oppose God’s reign in the hearts of men. Those present around the synagogue are astonished, both by his doctrine and by his power. He is not like the scribes, who teach in the name of Moses and the prophets, but he teaches **“with authority.”** He even has power against unclean spirits. **“What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.”**

Jesus has just begun his preaching, announcing the arrival of the Kingdom of God, God’s great project for all humanity. A Kingdom where only God, who is our Father, will be the King, and all the

enemies of God, all the other little kings, will disappear, they will be eliminated, they will have no power over man. Hopefully, we can have that same reaction. As we stand in the presence of Jesus in our lives; as we hear his words and experience his love; as we listen to his promises, and reflect about his life, death and resurrection; as we celebrate the sacraments; **what will be our reaction?** Let us pray to be astonished again and again.

However, it is not enough to be astonished and to acknowledge who Jesus is. Even the unclean spirit cried out saying: “I know who you are – the Holy One of God!” What is the difference between that and true faith? **Trust!** Jesus has not come to destroy sinners, but to save them from their own sinfulness. May we realize that we are before someone who is above us, the Son of God. And may we, in one way or another, express our admiration and our fidelity to him. May we allow him, and only him, to be the King and Lord of our lives. As we begin ordinary time, may we learn to live day by day according to the extraordinary mystery of our merciful God who took flesh and became one of us to save us.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, give us the confidence to place our **trust only in Jesus** without compromise, and not to rely on anything perishable. *Ven, Holy Spirit, Ven!*