

**Homily – Tuesday of the Tenth Week in Ordinary Time
Archbishop’s Medallion Mass – June 7th, 2022**

The story we heard proclaimed in the first reading takes place in the context of a severe drought predicted by the prophet Elijah. Obeying the Lord, he moves to Zarephath of Sidon – in present-day Lebanon – to meet a hospitable foreign and pagan widow who receives him kindly. She even shares with him the last thing she had left to live. This miracle would one day be evoked by Jesus himself, by highlighting the universal nature of the salvation offered to all – without distinctions or borders – despite misunderstandings.

In the gospel, Jesus describes the most essential aspects of the disciple’s mission in the midst of opposition and adversity in society. We are called to be the salt of the earth, the light of the world and a well-known city. Salt acts discreetly as a condiment and a food preservative. We must be like that, enhancing the flavor and preserving the sources of nourishment that we receive to share. We must resemble the one who said: “I am the light of the world.” Believers must aspire to be that city built on top of a hill, without giving in to the temptation of reducing our faith to what is purely cultural or mere appearance.

Pope Francis has said that Christians must “give” and “add flavor to the lives of others; add flavor to many things with the message of the Gospel”. A Christian ought not to “preserve himself” but instead he or she “is salt in order to give. (...) both light and salt are for others, not for themselves”, in fact “light does not illuminate itself” and “salt does not flavor itself.” God’s salt is given in baptism:

“it is the salt of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit that comes into your soul; it is the light of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit that comes into your soul”. This gift continues to be given to you if you share it. “It never ends”.

You are being distinguished for your witness, but the distinction is mostly a call. You are being sent to continue witnessing to what is worthwhile, namely the values of the gospel. There will be droughts in life. That is simply part of life and the reason food needs to be preserved. You need to preserve the values that have enhanced the flavor of your lives wherever and whenever they are threatened. And you must offer the flavor of the gospel to everyone you meet. You must be light to the world.

Through the practice of faith, you are called to bring the flavor and the light that Jesus offers. That means announcing the truth about Jesus, which fills life with purpose. Through a life lived like that, you are called to witness to Christian hope, serving as invitation for people to seek for the source of your joy. Finally, you must acknowledge that your accomplishments are ultimately the fruit of the love with which you have been bestowed, and part of your own infrastructure for future service to others. Love is paid with love. You must do everything with passionate enthusiasm out of love for God – who has loved you first – and for your parents and teachers, who are a sign of God’s love for you.

May Our Lady of Guadalupe continue to communicate to you the flavor and the light of Jesus, so that you pass them on to everyone around you.