

HOMILY SUNDAY II ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

BECAUSE HE WAS BEFORE ME

Brothers and sisters... Today the Church brings before us the figure of John the Baptist...

And it's interesting, because we've heard a lot about John in recent weeks... But he never puts himself at the center...

John **speaks**, he gives **testimony**, he points the way... **But he doesn't seek attention for himself**... He knows very well what his mission is... **And what it is not**...

John, my dear friends... teaches us something very important for life... When a person truly finds Jesus... when they let Jesus enter their life... they no longer need to be in the spotlight...

John knows who he is... And he also knows who he is not... He doesn't present himself as the light... he is the one who recognizes it and points to it... And his whole life is a silent invitation that says... **Go to Him**...

And... The image John the Baptist uses to speak of Jesus is very particular... He doesn't say **He is a powerful king**... he doesn't say **He comes to impose Himself**... he says... **This is the Lamb of God**...

A lamb **doesn't shout**... A lamb **doesn't threaten**... A lamb **doesn't crush**...

Jesus doesn't come to condemn... He comes to take away the sin of the world...

Jesus doesn't come to point fingers... He comes to heal, to lift up, to reconcile...

And this is what we're going to experience throughout this Ordinary Time we've begun... **The mystery of Christ, the mercy of Jesus in its fullness**...

A message deeply full of hope for us today... Jesus never tires of our weakness...

Jesus doesn't walk away when we fail... Jesus keeps coming to meet us...

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah helps us take a deeper step and discover how we can live this Word today in our own lives... This isn't a text to admire from the outside... **But an invitation to recognize ourselves as part of God's story**...

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What we hear isn't just for the heart... It's for life... to move from being spectators to becoming witnesses...

I will make you a light to the nations... This means that faith isn't just to be kept... nor lived privately... **but to shine...**

I love to say this... and I have made it a guiding principle of my ministry... **May your life be like a lamp beside the tabernacle...** showing **where** the true love, the true salvation, the true mercy... Once you find it, all you want is to share it... share it... and share it...

John the Baptist was not the light... But he reflected the light of Christ... And this invites us to ask ourselves...

Who am I pointing to with my life?

What do others see when they look at me? Do they see me... or do they discover something of Jesus?

My dear friends... All of us, in some way, are sent to be light... **And to reflect it every day in what we do and say...** In our family, at work, in our community... even in the middle of worries and fatigue...

And it's not about doing extraordinary things... It's about living in such a way that others can say... **There is something different here...**

My dear brothers and sisters... Today the Lord invites us to the same thing He invited John to... **To give testimony...**

With simple but strong and radical words...

With concrete and real gestures...

With a coherent and courageous life...

May our lives, like John the Baptist's, be able to say without fear and without seeking the spotlight... This is Jesus... He gives meaning... **He takes away the sin of the world.**

Fr. Moices Rafael C.