

Ezekiel 3: 16-21; Matthew 9: 35 – 10: 1

Today the church celebrates Saint John Vianney. Vianney was a parish priest of the parish of Ars, found in France. He transformed this parish by his preaching and his life of prayer and charity. The story goes that one day Vianney said to a child: "Show me the way to Ars and I will show you the way to heaven." I think a person who shows people the way to heaven can be a good sentry to the world.

Today I would like us to meditate on the prophet as a sentry. The word of God was addressed to Ezekiel as follows: "Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the house of Israel."

For all the times that we failed to warn people and show them the way which lead to heaven, we confess and say: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

Meditation: The prophet as a sentry

You may agree with me that the job of a sentry is not an easy job. In fact, in general a sentry is a soldier stationed to keep guard or to control access to a place. And by extension, a sentry is a person who watches over a place or people in order to keep the place or people safe. Spiritually speaking, a sentry is like an angel.

When people can sleep, a sentry is called to be awake. A sentry, in fact, stays up all night to watch over. And he or she does this duty with joy and compassion. It pleased God to choose the prophet Ezekiel as sentry to the house of Israel. Ezekiel had to protect his people by warning them in telling them the right thing to do and the wrong to avoid.

The Lord God made it very clear to Ezekiel: "Whenever you hear a word from me, warn them in my Name." This means that whatever Ezekiel will say should be in the name of the Lord and not in his own name. The mission that Ezekiel has been given should be exercised in love, faith and hope.

Ezekiel is not to act like a police officer who intimidates people but rather as a police officer whose concern is the safety of people. The Lord God was very clear to Ezekiel; if Ezekiel sees people living in a way that does not lead to salvation and says nothing to warn them, he will be accountable for their perdition. This is to say, Ezekiel should make sure that he tells people the right thing to do for their salvation. And it is up to the people to follow or to reject as free human beings.

Referring myself to the mission of Ezekiel as sentry to the house of Israel, I think each one of us in this coronavirus situation should be sentry to the world. I mean each one of us should remind one another to put on a face mask in public services in order to save one's life and that of others. It is a responsibility of each one of us to enforce the law on the wearing of face mask. To do so is to fulfil one's mission as sentry to the house of humans. Anyhow, we are called to be angels to one another.

Let me be your angel and be willing to become my angel. Wherever we are, it is our duty to awake people and ask them to be alert since we need to drive out the enemy of all, that is, coronavirus.

Remember, not to allow coronavirus spread and destroy humanity is the responsibility and duty of all. If you warn people not to neglect the wearing of face mask, they shall be safe from coronavirus, thanks to your warning, and you too will have saved your life.

Let me be your sentry and be willing to become my sentry for the sake of our well-being and salvation.