

Reflection Tuesday 2nd Week Lent 2023

The Gospel today is particularly aimed at priests and leaders of the Church. They too easily fall into becoming like the Scribes and Pharisees who thought of themselves as important because they had greater knowledge. It would be terrible to think that the lack of vocations to the priesthood is due to the fact that those in this role exploit their position and use their power for their own good. Priests are anointed on their hands when they are ordained, a public sign that they are called to serve and they make a promise to do so. The priestly role is both important and essential in the life of the church but the priest is a servant!

Pope Francis:

In the life of every Christian, but especially of priests, God's love and forgiveness are the greatest rewards, and any attempt to seek one's own glory plays into the hands of the devil. There is no recompense greater than friendship with Jesus. There is no peace greater than his forgiveness. There is no greater price than his precious blood, and we must not allow it to be devalued by unworthy conduct.

Being priests, dear brothers, is a grace, a very great grace, yet it is not primarily a grace for us, but for our people.

The Lord is inviting us to be faithful to him, to be faithful to his covenant and to let ourselves be loved and forgiven by him. They are invitations addressed to us, so that in this way we can serve, with a clear conscience, the holy and faithful people of God.

Seeking our own glory robs us of the presence of Jesus, humble and humiliated, the Lord who draws near to everyone, the Christ who suffers with all who suffer, who is worshipped by our people, who know who his true friends are. A worldly priest is nothing more than a clericalized pagan.