

## XXXII SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

The news arriving from all over the world is worrying, and even here, in our Province, with this second wave of the virus. I put everything in God's hands and I try to listen to the Word.

The real protagonist of this passage from the gospel is not the groom or the bride, who by the way is not even named. Not even the ten virgins are the protagonists of this text. The only undisputed protagonist is the oil. It may seem strange, but it is true.

The ten virgins are an image of the community waiting for the Lord and the contrast between wisdom and foolishness shows us how to live the present time with all its contradictions and efforts. The parable of the house on the rock develops the same theme: wisdom is listening to and putting into practice the Word, only in this way, united with Christ the light of the world (Jn 8:12), can we live as true children of the light (1Ts 5: 5) .

Foolishness is not having what it illuminates, it is listening without putting into practice, it is filling our life with useless things that for a moment illuminate us like an artificial fire and then leave us in the darkness. Blind. If we don't train in love our life is dull, dry and sad.

In this time of uncertainty and fear, the Lord calls us to convert to true wisdom. The houses built on the sand have already been swept away by the storm and lie on the ocean floor of our foolishness and superficiality. Now is the time to build on the rock, to fill our lamps with oil, to light up our life with passion.

I would like to end this brief reflection by underlining a small and interesting detail of the parable. Matthew does not mind saying that the ten virgins fall asleep. I like this little note. The teacher knows our weakness and the hardships of everyday life.

It may happen that our faith falls asleep, that there are periods of weariness and fatigue. It may happen that we ask ourselves where God is hiding, because the traces of his presence seem to disappear ... The master knows that our life is a struggle, that there are difficulties and unexpected events, and he calls us back to the essential, to what cannot be missing: the oil of love, passion, desire.

Courage! It doesn't matter if you've fallen or been wrong. What really matters is that your lamp doesn't stop sparkling, that the oil of love makes you "shine like a star in the world, holding up the Word of life." (Phil 2: 15-16)