

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



“I have not come to bring peace but division, a household will be divided, three against two and two against three.”

These words can seem very surprising to us, coming from the mouth of Jesus.

For most people Jesus, if they even think of him, is sanguine, Ghandi-like, all-embracing, and mild mannered.

But this is not the Jesus of the Gospel, and is certainly not the Jesus that we pray to.

Jesus Christ is man and God, being man, he has his feet on the ground and is able to speak the truth to his listeners, and that means to us.

If we are seeking a utopian peace that is never threatened by anything or anyone for the sake of the Gospel, we are in the wrong religion.

Jesus Christ, when he appears in our life as an existential person, always brings consequences of division in the face of the affective relationships we have with others.

Of course, it's much better not to rock the boat, never to speak the truth, to go with the flow, not to make waves, to have a plastic smile and a stiff upper lip. This is certainly not the message of the Gospel. In fact, to live like this is hell and would be one's condemnation.

In reading the lives of all the Saints the first opposition that they had was from their own household, their own family, their own father, their own mother, their own brothers and sisters and relatives.

Jesus Christ experienced this himself, his own family thought he was stark raving mad.

The history of salvation begins with Abraham who also experienced the mockery and ridicule of his own flesh and blood in the face of God's intervention in his life.

There is a great good news for us in the Gospel today. Jesus Christ does not want to take anything away from us but wants to give us everything. The first thing he frees us from are the neurotic ties we have with our own family.

In Him, and only in Him, can we finally be free to be who we are called to be by God.

In experiencing this we also experience that we have a renewed relationship with our family, a relationship built not on neurotic affections, but on the truth.

Fr. Sean