Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time — February 14, 2021

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

People are willing to undergo a great deal of trouble and expense in order to have their health restored. They submit willingly to a physician, undergo frequent treatments, take expensive medicines, and in fact anything, if only they can regain physical health even though they be at an advanced, old age. How many are equally concerned with regaining the health of the inner person, which may have been brought low by the poison of sin, paralyzed by evil habits of long standing, or jeopardized by willful carelessness in thoughts and actions? Yet, what is more important when a person stands before his or her God at the gate of eternity, physical health or the integrity of the inner person.

Everything in this weekend's Gospel seems to bring before our eyes the penitent sinner who seeks reconciliation and healing from Christ, the great Sacrament of God's love. Not as if leprosy were necessarily connected with personal sin, but this weekend's Gospel vividly conjures up to the mind the dispositions required of the penitent sinner, aware of his great need of the Savior; the loving and willing action of that same Savior in the sacrament of healing which he instituted for the express purpose of healing a person's inner spirit; and the effects as well as the requirements of the sacrament.

First of all, the leper approaches Jesus in person. This is unusual because lepers were supposed to keep at a distance so as not to contaminate anyone. But see how he approaches close to the Lord, with great confidence and utter simplicity, relying entirely on the help of the One from whom he knew help could come. This is the disposition required of the penitent who seeks to be renewed in spirit. Aware, of this utter need of the Savior, he seeks a personal encounter with him, moved by faith in his saving power, and placing his utter trust in the love of the Savior for him, that he could heal him no matter what wounds infect his spirit, no matter what the number and gravity of his offenses. Though sinful, he will not stay away, but come close to Jesus who became man precisely to be humankind's Savior.

Like the leper who is totally renewed in bodily integrity and can live an entirely new life not admissible for him before, so the repentant sinner, renewed in God's love, walks in the newness of the Christ-life, all his or her actions and motivations taking on a renewed direction. His or her aim is now to be more conformed to the image of Christ, his or her Savior, and that will mean a thorough conversion from sinful ways. Even though the conversion brought about by the reception of penance may not have had to do with serious sin, there is always need of a constant and progressive orientation toward walking with Christ the Way to the Father.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Though we are not able to meet together during this week, please keep these intentions in your personal prayers, as Father will continue to include them in his private masses.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**February 16**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Wed.	**February 17**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Thur.	**February 18**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Fri.	**February 19**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Sat.	**February 20**	**4:30PM**
John & Gen Heuser †		Trudi
Sun.	**February 21**	**9:00A**
People of the Parish		
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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