

**REFLECTIONS 6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY YEAR B 2021.**  
**THE POWER OF TOUCH.**

All we need in our life as human beings is a loving, caring word and an outstretched caring hand and all will be okay. What a consoling factor during this challenging time in our society to get a supporting caring hand when we desperately need it! This is what our first reading is leading us into as we have that beautiful concluding episode in the Gospel of today.

The caring powerful hand of Jesus conveys the message clearly. The whole scenario begins with the attitude that people had for those infected and affected by Leprosy. The dreadful disease of Leprosy was feared and is still feared by all. It is worse than the Corona pandemic we are facing today. The lepers were considered as unclean, treated as both religious and social misfits and outcasts. They had no place at home, in the town society and even in the synagogue. The leper was considered ritually unclean hence compelled to live away in the bush from the community. It was also considered as a punishment from God. It was only after, when the leper had been pronounced cured and undergone a purification rite certified by the priest, that he could be readmitted and accepted into the community.

In today's Gospel this is clearly seen by the act of Jesus to this fellow infected by Leprosy. Jesus broke through all the social and religious taboo of the time and reached a healing, curing hand to this suffering, broken person. The Leper had broken all the rules by coming out in public and meeting Jesus. He pleaded with Jesus ***"If you are willing, you can cleanse me."*** What a bold approach! Imagine the ***fear, anxiety, tension, expectations, the tears the leper had as he approached Jesus.*** What was going through his mind? Was Jesus going to listen to him, is He going to condemn him for coming out of the bush without alerting him! Will people stone him? Suppose he refuses to listen to him?

His thinking and expectation were met with a loud and clear invitation to dialogue created by Jesus. “ **I AM WILLING, BE CLEANSED.**” The hand was **outstretched.** Jesus did the unthinkable in the society, the **TOUCH!** What a moment for this leper, “**GO AND SHOW YOURSELF TO THE PRIEST AND DO WHAT YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO DO.**”

**The call is still there for us today as we approach this period of Lent the power of the sacrament of reconciliation.** The leper’s body was wounded by leprosy and his soul and spirit wounded by REJECTION. Jesus cured him and restored his broken wounded spirit. The lost dignity as a human being and as a son of God were both restored. We are all in need of that healing curing power of Jesus today as human being as we are wounded and browsed by lack of love, care, respect, rejection, and poverty. We need to stretch our hands to those rejected, to those who are poor, those who are sick, the social misfits, the aged, immigrants, political and social rejects. This is the mission of the church. How are we going to handle such a challenging situation except through the power of Love through faith?

So many people in our world are paralyzed by rejection and modern technologies which are sending the world into a digital upheaval, bringing temptations, thus sending almost everything out of control. It is bringing so many miseries into marriage and religious life. It is making society victim to sin, not seeing anything wrong in immorality of any kind, stealing as normal, sex before marriage, and extramarital relationships. It is destroying human life through abortion. Are all these not the modern Leprosy facing the society? How are we going to address these as Catholics?

How are we going to restore the lost moral values? Jesus saw a need and filled it. He saw a sick person and cured and healed him. Jesus’ touch restored the person to his family, town, society, and to his synagogue. We need to have caring hearts with hands ready for

restoration to those wounded in body and spirit. We have a duty and mission as Jesus' followers. How are you going to do it yourself?

How will we show **JUSTICE, COMFORT, AND COMPASSION AND TRY TO HELP THE PERSON BELONG TO THE SOCIETY AND THE CHURCH?**

Like Jesus we should show *compassion by facing human suffering in a positive caring attitude.*