

FR.TK.REFLECTIONS 28th SUNDAY YEAR C. 2022.

GRATITUDE-THANK YOU:

The word Leprosy was and is indeed a terrifying word among the people. In spite of modern technology and medical research investigations, there is still a lot of fear when we hear Leprosy. In the recent times we have been faced with all sorts of diseases, **cancer, anthrax, HIV/AIDS, Ebola** and now the ongoing **Covid-19**. They all have brought fear, panic, anxiety and threat in human life and this shows how vulnerable we are as human beings.

Persons with Leprosy were considered **outcast, sinners, hence segregated from the public so as to avoid passing the disease to the healthy folks** to have Leprosy is like being condemned.

They couldn't be with others, they lived in isolation in the bush near the cities and depended on the well being of their families and friends. They couldn't associate in any public function, social or even religious function. They were always to shout unclean, unclean to declare their presence in the neighborhood. This caused a lot of **humiliation, stress, distress lack of human respect and human dignity** thus bringing to these sick members, **trauma, emotional, social, psychological and spiritual imbalance. Is this not happening when we hear one is an HIV or even Corona victim?** We try to keep off as much as possible. Our today's readings especially the first and the Gospel they talk of this dreadful disease.

Naaman the commander of the Syrian army is infected with the Leprosy and the ten Lepers in Israel are too victims. We see their different reactions after being cured. What a lesson for us

nowadays. Note the fact that these cases of curing were not instant, there was a process towards the cure, Naaman had to travel all the way to Isareal, meet this man of God through a messenger, prescribed to go and **bath seven times in River Jordan after this he got cured**(2kings.5:14-17).

The ten lepers united together by the same disease didn't care whether Samaritan or Jewish **what they cared about is their common suffering and were looking for cure.** They were living together regardless of their background they must have heard the healing power of the physician Jesus. They couldn't hold back, this was their opportunity, they **shouted, cried together Jesus, master have pity on us**(Lk.17.11-14). He listened to their cry, **he gave them prescriptions, he send them to their priests to give them clean bill of health certifying their cure.** On the way they they got cured, one of them was so much **touched he returned to give thanks to God**(Lk.17:17-18). **He was Samaritan.**

Naaman had done the same going back to the man of God to give thanks. Both were not Israelites they were outsiders. The process of curing gives us great teaching on how to be **patience, tolerance, humility and above all faith. It is also teaching us on Gratitude and thanksgiving.** Don't we all need that especially in our present day society where everything is instant! Instant tea relationship marriage we want all very fast, and all seems to go away fast too!

Our lord shows his disappointment **were not ten cured? Where are the other nine?** Might the lord be asking the same question to you and me? Are we grateful for the many gifts he has

accorded to us. life, good health, faith family, intelligence
parish, work, parents, teachers, friends, faith and so many others.
**Do we go back like Naaman and the Samaritan or we feel it is
our rights.**

Do we treat others like lepers or we appreciate them despite
their challenges. How do we treat those with **special needs, the
vulnerable, the immigrants, political opponents, people of
other religions, economical migrants and sexual deviants!** The
**worst Leprosy in our time is rejection and not to belong
anywhere.**

Don't we all deserve to be **directed to the man of God for cure,**
**don't we all need to be shown River Jordan to bath for
cure? Don't we all need a certificate of clean bill of health
certified by a compassionate and loving person.**

CAN YOU BE THAT PERSON TODAY.

We must get rid of **All Leprosy of hatred, pride, unkindness, and
take all the bitterness we might hold to river Jordan to be
CLEANSED.**