

# A DOSE OF GOD TODAY

Eucharist | Prayers | Readings | Reflections

A leper found love and kindness in Jesus. In the Biblical times, a leper was nobody. A person who has leprosy is removed from the community. It means that the person is forced to leave from the comfort and presence of friends, family and relatives.

The Jews at that time believed that leprosy was an ultimate punishment for sin. A leper was considered a terrible sinner punished by God and thus unclean, unworthy and worthless person. This became a form of treating a leper as less than human or not human at all.

Jews would avoid them at all times. This is what we find in the Book of Leviticus that prescribed on what to do with lepers. They are to stay outside the camp, that is, outside from the daily affairs of his/her family and community. A leper has to make known himself by shouting, "Unclean! Unclean!" to warn the people of his presence. Everybody will never get near and come close to a leper for fear of being infected and worst of being considered as unclean too. Though there was a medical explanation for this, as isolation of the infected will protect the community. However, later on, this also fostered a culture of indifference and discrimination to the sick.

Yet, our Gospel conveys to us a shocking and moving turn of events. A leper should never get near to a Jew and a Jew should also immediately avoid any contact with a leper. But then, it was so shocking for all the Jews to see a leper coming closer to Jesus asking the Lord to cure him. What was more surprising there was the gesture of Jesus towards the leper. Jesus touched the leper!

The Lord touched a worthless person, an unclean and less human leper. And when that touch of Jesus happened, it destroyed the wall of indifference among the Jews towards the poor leper. The touch of Jesus assured the leper that he was not worthless at all, that he was not less human but, he was loved

and cherished by the Lord who longed to see him joyful and healed.

Jesus was moved to touch the leper because the Lord *looked with pity* on him. This feeling of pity described in the Gospel is not a "shallow feeling" that we usually have when we see a beggar or a person with difficulty, and we feel pity for him/her, but then we go along with our life and forget about the person. No, it is not that way. What Jesus felt was true pity where he too felt the sorrow and pain of the leper. In fact, Jesus was so distressed and disappointed to see the situation of the leper. This moved him to do something, and that is, to touch the leper in order to cleanse him. By doing that, Jesus broke the barriers of disgust, shame and fear that prevented the leper to be accepted by the community. Jesus changed those negative feelings and indifference with kindness and love.



This is how the Lord calls us on this day of Feb-IBIG, on this day of love, that we too will recognize persons in our community today who have been left out, abandoned and disgusted by many, so that, like Jesus we may also be able to touch them and show kindness and love.

As we remember and celebrate today what love can do, let that love in us also counter the growing indifference towards those whom our society identifies as worthless, useless and less human. To counter such injustice and indifference, never ever treat anybody as less human or useless because of their imperfection, because of their sickness or because of their failures in life.

Let us also not forget that each of us has our own leprosy, imperfections and sins that would qualify us as unclean before God. However, God showed pity upon us and became human like us so that Jesus may touch us to heal us.

Let us now share to our families and communities the touch of God that we have experienced so that, we too may be able to give life to those who need it, to give joy to those who are sad, and to give hope to those who are hopeless. Hinaut pa.

*Jom Baring, CSSR*

## INTRODUCTION

A blessed Sunday, brothers and sisters.

On this Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, we are reminded in this liturgy how our touch that is filled with kindness and love can bring healing and life to those who need it.

Jesus in today's Gospel touched a leper who suffered not just of leprosy but also from indifference and discrimination from the community. May our Eucharistic Celebration today dispel any form of indifference and discrimination against the weak, the sick and those who failed in their life.

As we begin this Holy Mass, let us now all stand and sing our entrance song.

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name. (Cf. Ps 31 (30): 3-4)*

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

### PENITENTIAL ACT

*Gloria* is sung or recited.

**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, Almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, only Begotten son, Lord God, lamb of God, son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the holy one, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## COLLECT

**Let us pray.** *(pause)*

**O God, who teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true, grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling pleasing to you.**

**Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### FIRST READING

**A Reading from the Book of Leviticus  
(13:1-2, 44-46)**

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "If someone has on his skin a scab or pustule or blotch which appears to be the sore of leprosy, he shall be brought to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests among his descendants. If the man is leprous and unclean, the priest shall declare him unclean by reason of the sore on his head."

The one who bears the sore of leprosy shall keep his garments rent and his head bare, and shall muffle his beard; he shall cry out, 'Unclean, unclean!' As long as the sore is on him he shall declare himself unclean, since he is in fact unclean. He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp."

**The word of the Lord.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11**

**I TURN TO YOU, LORD, IN TIME OF TROUBLE, AND YOU FILL ME WITH THE JOY OF SALVATION.**

Blessed is he whose fault is taken away, whose sin is covered. Blessed the man to whom the LORD imputes not guilt, in whose spirit there is no guile. **(R.)**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, my guilt I covered not. I said, "I confess my faults to the LORD," and you took away the guilt of my sin. **(R.)**

Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you just; exult, all you upright of heart. **(R.)**

### SECOND READING

**A Reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (10:31-11:1)**

Brothers and sisters:

Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. Avoid giving offense, whether to the Jews or Greeks or the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in every way, not seeking my own benefit but that of the many, that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

**The word of the Lord.**

### ALLELUIA

*Alleluia, alleluia. A great prophet has arisen in our midst, God has visited his people. Alleluia, alleluia. (Lk 7:16)*

### GOSPEL READING

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark (1:40-45)**

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you

can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once. He said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them." The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.

### The Gospel of the Lord.

### Homily

#### PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

**Priest:** Let us pray to God our Father, who desires that each of us will be healed from any sickness and be graced by the gift of salvation. Let our response be,

#### LORD, GIVE US THE GIFT OF YOUR HEALING.

1. That the Church, especially our Shepherds may also bring the gift of healing to those who are wounded by sin. We pray.
  2. That the state especially our government leaders and their agencies may be freed from the cycle of corruption and greed and serve the country with integrity, honesty and transparency. We pray.
  3. That those who are sick in spirit, mind and body may be touched by the Lord through the concern and love of their friends, families and communities. We pray.
  4. That all of us gathered may be healed from whatever sickness we have and that any form of indifference and discrimination in our hearts be dispelled. We pray.
  5. That the faithful departed may be welcomed by the loving embrace of Jesus and share in the glory of his resurrection. We pray.
- P:** Loving Father, help us in our weakness and forgive our sins that we may also experience the fullness of life which you have promised. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

**May this oblation, O Lord, we pray, cleanse and renew us and may it become for those who do your will the source of eternal reward.**

**Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **PREFACE I - VIII OF THE SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME**

### **COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish, but may have eternal life. (*Jn 3: 16*)

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

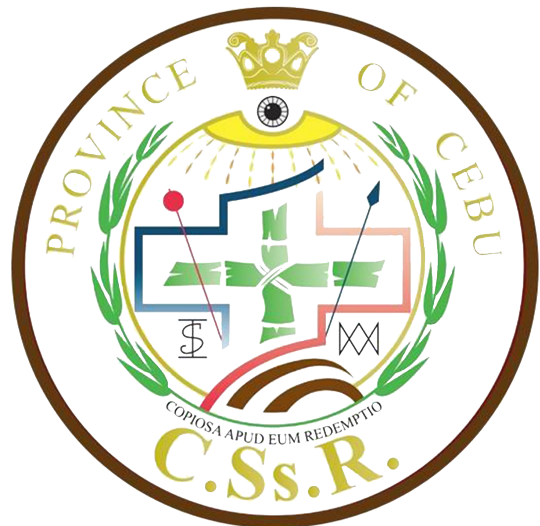
**Let us pray.** (*pause*)

**Having fed upon these heavenly delights, we pray, O Lord, that we may always long for that food by which we truly live.**

**Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Blessing for Married and Unmarried Couples**

*(The priest may invite married and unmarried couples to come near the sanctuary, if it permits, or may only stand close to each other for the blessing while also observing the physical distancing from each couple present.)*



**#RedemptoristMissionaries  
#PlentifulRedemption**

**Priest:** On this day of hearts, it would also be good to celebrate Valentines Day by asking God to bless Married Couples as well as those Unmarried Couples who are planning to settle down and those who are still in the process of settling down.

God works wonders by brining two hearts, not into one, but into three, that is, the hearts of the couple and God's heart to be united. And so, we ask now the God of love and faithfulness to grant you blessing. Please bow your heads and join your hands together.

**Let us pray.**

**ALMIGHTY AND ETERNAL GOD,  
YOU HAVE SO EXALTED THE  
UNBREAKABLE BOND OF MARRIAGE  
THAT IT HAS BECOME THE SACRAMENTAL  
SIGN OF YOUR SON'S UNION WITH THE  
CHURCH AS HIS SPOUSE.**

**LOOK WITH FAVOR (+) ON THESE**

**COUPLES WHOM YOU HAVE UNITED IN MARRIAGE, AS THEY ASK FOR YOUR HELP AND THE PROTECTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY.**

**THEY PRAY THAT IN GOOD TIMES AND IN BAD THEY WILL GROW IN LOVE FOR EACH OTHER; THAT THEY WILL RESOLVE TO BE UNITED IN THE BOND OF PEACE.**

**GRANT ALSO YOUR BLESSING LORD (+) TO THESE COUPLES WHO ARE NOT YET UNITED IN THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE. AS YOU HAVE WORKED IN THEIR HEARTS, GRANT THEM THE GIFT OF DISCERNMENT TO KNOW EACH OTHER MORE AND TO BE MORE DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER WITHOUT OVERPOWERING THE OTHER BUT TO GROW IN APPRECIATION OF THE UNIQUENESS OF EACH OTHER. AS THEY KNOW YOU MORE, THEY MAY ALSO DISCOVER THE JOY OF BEING TOGETHER.**

**AND SO LORD, IN THE STRUGGLES OF ALL THE COUPLES PRESENT HERE TODAY, LET THEM REJOICE THAT YOU ARE NEAR TO HELP THEM;  
IN THEIR NEEDS LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU ARE THERE TO RESCUE THEM;  
IN THEIR JOYS LET THEM SEE THAT YOU ARE THE SOURCE AND COMPLETION OF EVERY HAPPINESS.**

**WE ASK THIS THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.**

*(The priest may sprinkle them with Holy Water after the prayer.)*

## **FINAL BLESSING**

*Bow down for the blessing.*

May God, the almighty Father, give you joy. **R. Amen.**

May the only Son of God have mercy on you and help you in good times and in bad. **R. Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit always fill your hearts with love. **R. Amen.**

And may the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. **R. Amen.**

*Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.*