

Fr. Romeo Evangelista's Homily  
October 13, 2019  
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

The cleansing of the ten lepers reminds all of us the importance of remembering that the hand of God is always at work in our lives. It could be small or big it doesn't matter. We know in our hearts that we all have reasons to be grateful every day. Being grateful opens our eyes to the fact that we are blessed. A grateful person is a person conscious that life is full of blessings, great and small. It is a gift to be able to recognize that there are many good things that happen in our lives every day.

In our gospel today, one healed leper, a Samaritan, returns to thank Jesus. Giving thanks in Greek, Eucharisteo, very similarly to the Eucharist, which is a thanksgiving prayer.

When Jesus heals the ten lepers, he tells them to present themselves to the priests in Jerusalem. When one of them realizes he has been healed along the way, he goes back to Jesus to thank him. They were not told to do so, but this man does it spontaneously. The Samaritan sees something more than his miraculous healing. He sees God in Jesus. He has the eyes of faith.

The nine proceed to the Temple. Are the nine ungrateful because they do not return to Jesus? Not necessarily. They proceed to the priests to inform them of their healing. We may presume that the nine are also thankful to God for their healing. They are again allowed to worship with the community, singing psalms of thanksgiving.

We must acknowledge God's countless blessings and gifts of healing for us. Gratitude is one way to be pleasing to God. For the second reading, Paul reminds Timothy to remember Jesus Christ, who has done so much more. Jesus gave his life on the cross so that we may obtain not just healing but salvation. Thanking Jesus is remembering him.

A grateful person always sees things beyond. He sees that in everything God continues to work mysteriously. When you are grateful everyday your life becomes a thanksgiving. In other words, we become the Eucharist for others, because that's what the Eucharist is all about. We are here not only to partake in the Eucharist, but most of all that we may become the Eucharist ourselves. The one that shows love, compassion, respect and care for others.

When we are grateful it invites more blessings. People are encouraged to do more, to do better, and to become better when they are surrounded by thankful people.

Experience is the mission. I share with you an experience that I had as a seminarian.....

That experience made me realize one of the most important things in my life. Being grateful is not an option that we need to take or not, it is a way of life that we need to show every day. Always, be grateful, because it is an expression of our genuine faith in the Lord.