

Be Imitators of Christ!

The readings of the Mass invite us always to reflect on different ways we can imitate Christ in our day to day life. The first reading and the gospel, in common, discuss the disease of leprosy. Leprosy was a common disease in the time of Jesus. Specifically, the first reading, the book of Leviticus, gives us the picture of the way lepers were seen and treated in Jesus' time. They were treated with great rejection and isolation.

It is within the context of this isolation and rejection that the leper in the gospel had the courage to go and kneel before Jesus to ask with faith for healing, not minding how he was seen by the people. The leper was sure of Jesus' power but was only thinking about his willingness. Thus, he said "if you wish you can make me clean" and the ever-willing and compassionate Jesus healed him. The courage of the leper and the compassion of Jesus are points of reflection. The leper even though he was isolated and rejected by his community, he didn't reject himself; rather he had an unflinching trust in the healing power of God.

The rejection and the isolation in the discussion we can also face in different ways and levels in our lives, especially when we feel that people do not like us or do not appreciate what we do. Do we allow those things to influence us and make us look downcast and lose confidence in ourselves? On the other hand, do we belong to the group who isolate or reject people because of the way they are or understand things? If we want to imitate Christ as St. Paul invites us in the 2nd reading we have to live above all kinds of rejection and isolation in our lives. We pray that God will help us to remember his love and compassion to us always, especially in the face of isolation and rejection; equally, to share the same love and compassion with others. Amen.

"....Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart...." (Matthew 11:28)