

Thank You Jesus!

***“There is more hunger for love and appreciation in this world than for bread”
(St. Theresa of Calcutta)***

The celebration of the Eucharist is the celebration of our deep sense of gratitude to God for his everlasting love and mercy. This celebration invites and sends us to continue to recognize and appreciate God's ever-abiding presence. One of the central themes of this Sunday's readings is the invitation to always find something in our lives to say, *Thank You, Jesus*. More still, gratitude to God is an act of faith. It reminds us constantly that faithful God will never abandon us, just as St. Paul emphasizes in the first reading (2 Timothy 2:8-13), *"If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself."*

In this Sunday's first reading (2 Kings 5:14-17), the story of Naaman, the leper, is an excellent example of how we should express our profound gratitude to God and to the people God uses to shower his benevolence to us. Naaman returned to Prophet Elisha, the Man of God, who interceded on his behalf for God's healing upon him. Similarly, the Samaritan's deep appreciation of Jesus's healing in this Sunday Gospel (Luke 17:11-19) reminds us that being grateful to God for his presence in our lives is an act of faith. Specifically, Jesus praised the act of faith of the Samaritan leper, who was the only one who returned to say thanks out of the nine healed. Jesus told him, "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you."

Our ability to recognize and appreciate the beautiful things God has blessed us with helps us know that God has not abandoned us in the face of our challenges. Also, we are called to appreciate the gifts of people God uses to bless us, just as Naaman recognized that the healing of God came to him through the intercession of the Prophet Elisha. We must ask ourselves; do I appreciate the people God has placed in my life through which I receive his love and kindness? In addition, how can I use God's gifts to express my gratitude to people in my life? Let us ask the good Lord to give us the faith we need to acknowledge the beautiful things he is doing in our lives and be able to say always, ***'Thank You, Jesus! Amen.***

Blessed Cyprain Iwene Tansi- Pray for us