

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 17:11-19

'No one was found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner.'

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.' When he saw them he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, 'Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' And he said to him, 'Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.'

Reflection

In today's Gospel (Luke 17:11-19), Jesus heals ten lepers, but only one of them, a Samaritan, returns to thank Him. Jesus wonders why the others didn't come back, and praises the one who did. This story reminds us that while God blesses us with His love and mercy, it's important for us to remember to thank Him and show our gratitude.

The one leper who returned didn't just receive healing; he showed true faith by acknowledging God's goodness. Like the lepers, we often receive so many blessings in our lives, but we might forget to thank God. St. Vincent de Paul, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, and others in the Vincentian family showed their gratitude by serving the poor and sick, giving back the love they had received.

This week, let's reflect: How can we show gratitude for the blessings we've received? How can we serve others and give thanks through our actions, just like the one leper who returned to Jesus?



Activity

Place a jar or decorated container in your meeting space, along with small slips of paper and pens. Each week (or every time you meet), invite everyone to quietly write down one thing they've been grateful for that week, big or small, and place it in the jar as a way of giving thanks to God, just like the healed leper who returned to Jesus. Over time, the jar will fill up with moments of gratitude, showing how much God has done in your lives. At the end of the year, you can open the jar together and read through all the notes, looking back on the many blessings you've received and how your gratitude has grown throughout the year.

Materials needed

A jar or box
Slips of paper
Pens

Call to Action

This week, think of someone in your school, parish, or neighbourhood who gives their time to help others, like a caretaker, cleaner, lunch supervisor, or parish volunteer, and often goes unnoticed. As a group, make or write them a simple thank you card and deliver it in person (if you can).

By showing appreciation to someone who quietly serves others, you are recognising Christ in them, just as St. Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frédéric Ozanam taught us to value the hidden, humble work of love. It's a small but powerful way to practise gratitude through action.

thankful