


**ARCHDIOCESE OF PALO
CATECHETICAL MINISTRY**

February 14, 2020 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle B
THEME Jesus' Love Purifies (Mark 1:40-45)



INTRODUCTION

Talk about the dangers of the spread Corona Virus Disease (CoVid 19) and health protocols observed to avoid contamination.

In Jesus' time, leprosy was a dreadful disease that caused isolation of the sick (leper) away from the family and community. Nowadays, leprosy can be cured and there is a designated area with hospital where they are taken care of. However, we can consider Corona Virus or Covid 19 as another form of Leprosy like the olden times that greatly affects our life today. If Jesus were here with us, what would he do. Let us see what might Jesus be telling us with the Gospel today




OPENING PRAYER

Breathe in me Holy Spirit
That my thoughts may all be holy,
Act in me O Holy Spirit.
Draw my heart O holy Spirit
That I love what is holy,
Strengthen me O holy Spirit,
To defend all that is holy.
Guard me. Then O Holy Spirit
That I always may be holy. (St. Augustine)



**PHASE ONE
REMEMBER THE STORY OF JESUS**

1.1 Proclamation of the Gospel of Mark 1:40-45

	<p>40 A leper came to Jesus and begged him, "If you want to, you can make me clean." 41 Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I do want to; be clean." 42 The leprosy left the man at once and he was made clean. 43 As Jesus sent the man away, he sternly warned him.</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

44 "Don't tell anyone about this, but go and show yourself to the priest, and for the cleansing bring the offering ordered by Moses; in this way you will give to them your testimony." 45 However, as soon as the man went out, he began spreading the news everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter any town. But even though he stayed in the rural areas, people came to him from everywhere.

1.2 Brief Guided silent Meditation / Personal Prayer.

Let us pause for a while for a moment prayerful silence so that the Word of God may penetrate into our hearts. Here are some questions to help us in our personal reflection.

1. What touched you most in this Gospel story? Why?
2. How were the lepers treated in the community?
3. What did Jesus do to the leper?

1.3 Text in Context

Last Sunday's Gospel, we saw Jesus leaving Capernaum to announce the Good News in most needy areas in Galilee. In today's Gospel, as Jesus continues his mission, he meets in the same place a man with leprosy.

Leprosy deforms skin and is considered a contagious disease. In Jesus' time lepers had to live on the outskirts of the towns, far from the community. They were considered dead while alive. People were afraid to get near to them due to contamination, both physical and spiritual. On the road, they gave warning to people to get away from their way, saying "unclean, unclean", otherwise, others would become impure as well. Such restrictions were part of Jewish laws. What a terrible rejection from their religion and the rest of the population.

- 1. What did the man ask Jesus to do?**
to make him clean, to cure his leprosy
- 2. How does the Gospel describe Jesus' response to the man's request for help?**
Jesus was "moved with pity."
- 3. What did Jesus choose to do?**
He touched the man with leprosy and healed him.
- 4. What did Jesus ask the leper to do after he had been healed?**
"Don't tell anyone about this, but go and show yourself to the priest, and for the cleansing bring the offering ordered by Moses; in this way you will give to them your testimony"
- 5. What happened as a result of the Jesus' healing to the man with leprosy?**
Jesus could no longer openly enter any town. But even.

though he stayed in the rural areas, people came to him from everywhere.

**PHASE II REFLECT the Story
of the Church
(Teachings of the Church)**



The healing of the leper in our story, tells us how Jesus' love purifies.

The leper cried out to Jesus. *"If you want to, you can make me clean."*

The feeling of being unclean, contagious, "un-touchable," must be horrible for the leper. More so with the belief that God has afflicted him with leprosy as punishment from God.

While it is true that sickness involves the whole person, it does not make us unclean nor takes us away from God's love. Times of sickness may even draw the sick person closer to God. On the contrary, **it is sin that makes the person impure or unclean.** There are many forms of sin like self-love, pride, dishonesty to self and others which make us impure.

Let us examine the impurities within us, caused by sin. (pause for a while)

Like the leper, let us beg Jesus to purify us. In silence, let us ask God's mercy:

Jesus, if you will, make me clean...

Jesus, if you will, make me clean...

Jesus promptly acted upon the leper's plea. *He stretched his hands and touched him, saying, I do want to; be clean.*

Jesus took the risk. *Jesus touched the leper, an act that would infect him even inside, in the spirit, that is, becoming unclean.*

At that moment, *the influence flows not from the leper to Jesus so as to transfer the contagion, but actually from Jesus to the leper so as to grant him purification* (Pope Francis, 2018) The leper himself was the one contaminated with Jesus purifying love, freeing him with the heavy burden of leprosy.

Jesus' love is more powerful than leprosy. The sores all over his body must have turned into new flesh. Jesus' mercy toward the leper was greater than the observance of the rule of the time. *Jesus' love purifies his whole being, heart, body and spirit.*

From the purity of Jesus' heart through his hands overflows the love that purifies and heals. The leper was cured not only physically but was restored to health in all areas of his life. He could be reunited with his family and community and thus be able to join with them

in their worship and praise to God. Above all, he experienced the joy and preciousness of his being a child of God, through the love of Jesus.

Jesus love purifies us. He cleanses our hearts and whole person. Have I allowed myself to be touched by Jesus purifying love and mercy?

Do I believe that it is Jesus whom I meet in confession or the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

When was the last time I went for confession?

If I have not gone for confession yet, do I desire to see Jesus forgiving me through the priest who is the *Other Christ*?

**PHASE THREE RESPOND – with/ in my personal
faith /community faith story**

We celebrate ASH WEDNESDAY this week (Feb 17) we are reminded to REPENT AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL!

What does God invite me to do? What action can I do to let myself be purified by Jesus?

How can I keep myself pure and clean from sin? How can help others avoid sin?



CLOSING PRAYER

ACT OF CONTRITION

Oh my God I am sorry for all my sins because they offend you who are all good. Be merciful to me a sinner. I am deeply sorry for my sins, for having broken or weakened my communion with you and my neighbor. I pray that your loving mercy will heal what I have hurt, strengthen what I have weakened. Help me to amend my life and sin no more and in your mercy bring me to everlasting life. Amen <https://www.stillromancatholicafteralltheseyears>.

BACKGROUND FOR THE CATECHISTS

With our eyes fixed on Jesus and his merciful gaze, we experience the love of the Most Holy Trinity. The mission Jesus received from the Father was that of revealing the mystery of divine love in its fullness. "God is love" (1 Jn 4:8,16), John affirms for the first and only time in all of Holy Scripture. This love has now been made visible and tangible in Jesus' entire life. His person is nothing but love, a love given gratuitously. The relationships he forms with the people who approach him manifest something entirely unique and unrepeatable. The signs he works, especially in favor of sinners, the poor, the marginalized, the sick, and the suffering, are all meant to teach mercy. Everything in him speaks of mercy. Nothing in him is devoid of compassion. See also page 3 for deepening of understanding of SIN for Catechists Q

1. Which are the chief sources of sin?

A. The chief sources of sin are seven: Pride, Covetousness, Lust, Anger, Gluttony, Envy, and Sloth, and they are commonly called capital sins.

Q.2. What is pride?

A. Pride is an excessive love of our own ability; so that we would rather sinfully disobey than humble ourselves.

Q.3. What effect has pride on our souls?

A. Pride begets in our souls sinful ambition, vainglory, presumption and hypocrisy.

Q. 4. What is covetousness?

A. Covetousness is an excessive desire for worldly things.

Q. 5. What effect has covetousness on our souls?

A. Covetousness begets in our souls unkindness, dishonesty, deceit and want of charity.

Q. 6. What is lust?

A. Lust is an excessive desire for the sinful pleasures forbidden by the Sixth Commandment.

Q. 7. What effect has lust on our souls?

A. Lust begets in our souls a distaste for holy things, a perverted conscience, a hatred for God, and it very frequently leads to a complete loss of faith.

Q. 8. What is anger?

A. Anger is an excessive emotion of the mind excited against any person or thing, or it is an excessive desire for revenge.

Q. 9. What effect has anger on our soul?

A. Anger begets in our souls impatience, hatred, irreverence, and too often the habit of cursing.

Q. 9. What is gluttony?

A. Gluttony is an excessive desire for food or drink.

Q. 11. What kind of a sin is drunkenness?

A. Drunkenness is a sin of gluttony by which a person deprives himself of the use of his reason by the excessive taking of intoxicating drink.

Q. 12. Is drunkenness always a mortal sin?

A. Deliberate drunkenness is always a mortal sin if the person be completely deprived of the use of reason by it, but drunkenness that is not intended or desired may be excused from mortal sin.

Q. 13. What are the chief effects of habitual drunkenness?

A. Habitual drunkenness injures the body, weakens the mind, leads its victim into many vices and exposes him to

the danger of dying in a state of mortal sin.

Q.14. What three sins seem to cause most evil in the world?

A. Drunkenness, dishonesty and impurity seem to cause most evil in the world, and they are therefore to be carefully avoided at all times.

Q. 15. What is envy?

A. Envy is a feeling of sorrow at another's good fortune and joy at the evil which befalls him; as if we ourselves were injured by the good and benefited by the evil that comes to him.

Q. 16. What effect has envy on the soul?

A. Envy begets in the soul a want of charity for our neighbor and produces a spirit of detraction, back-biting and slander.

Q. 17. What is sloth?

A. Sloth is a laziness of the mind and body, through which we neglect our duties on account of the labor they require.

Q.18. What effect has sloth upon the soul?

A. Sloth begets in the soul a spirit of indifference in our spiritual duties and a disgust for prayer.

Q.19. Why are the seven sources of sin called capital sins?

A. The seven sources of sin are called capital sins because they rule over our other sins and are the causes of them.

Q. 20 What do we mean by our predominant sin or ruling passion?

A. By our predominant sin, or ruling passion, we mean the sin into which we fall most frequently and which we find it hardest to resist.

Q. 21. How can we best overcome our sins?

A. We can best overcome our sins by guarding against our predominant or ruling sin.

Q. 22. Should we give up trying to be good when we seem not to succeed in overcoming our faults?

A. We should not give up trying to be good when we seem not to succeed in overcoming our faults, because our efforts to be good will keep us from becoming worse than we are.

Q. 24. What virtues are opposed to the seven capital sins?

A. Humility is opposed to pride; generosity to covetousness; chastity to lust; meekness to anger; temperance to gluttony; brotherly love to envy, and diligence to sloth.

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/resources/catechism/baltimore-catechism/lesson-6-on-sin-and-its-kinds>

