

Sunday, February 11, 2018 – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46; Psalms 32 "[I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation](#)"; 1st Corinthians 10:31--11:1; Mark 1:40-45

Dear Parishioners & Students,

"I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble..."

The first words in the refrain of the Responsorial Psalm (Ps. 32) are the representation of the words that are present in our mouths that we do not know how to express. As turning on the TV or radio, or reading the news in the newspapers or internet, as citizens. We fail to see how the world has become a place of violence, where the peace is not present, or it is said as merely a word, without meaning. Nevertheless, as people and believers, we must turn to the Lord, in time of trouble, that he may give us the wisdom to have victory in Him.

"If you wish, you can make me clean."(Mk. 1:40)

To understand the reality of this request that comes from the Leaper, it is necessary to return to the first reading of today's mass (Leviticus 13:1-2, 42-46) when the Lord says: "When someone has on the skin a mark, lesion, or blotch which appears to develop into a scaly infection, the person shall be brought to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests among his sons...." (Lev. 13:2). Because of the spreading lesion, the person was sent from the community and declared impure by the priest. When reading this scripture a question certainly comes to mind: What kind of God is this? Is HE a loving and merciful God? It seems that there is a contrast of a God presented in the Old Testament and a God presented by Jesus in the New Testament. However, there is no contrast; God is the same loving and merciful God. The problem is in how the Pharisees and the Scribes applied in the life of the people of Israel a very distant God. Unlike Jesus who teaches his disciples and to the crowd that God is a God who forgives and heals those who are wounded.

Almost Lenten Season

In a few more days the Lenten Season will begin and with it the exercises of our personal and daily conversion. As we contemplate Jesus in his experience in the desert (Mk. 1:12-15), we must take our steps towards him. What is our decision for the Lenten Season this year?