

Homily for the Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

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Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I have a question for you: Have you faced a leper? Do I look at his face or maybe his body full of open sores spilling blood, or maybe smelling very strong?

Probably not, because today, it is a more controlled disease.

In Jesus' time, leprosy was such a marked disease that people had to get away from their family, their people and society.

They had no right to be taken into account; they had no right to a medical service or human attention. Therefore, when he was declared a leper, he lost all value in the eyes of God and the people; in a few words he was condemned in life.

Jesus, very firmly faces this injustice, for that reason, he approaches the leper and says, "*I do will it. Be made clean.*"

What does this response from Jesus tell us? Such a lot or maybe nothing.

However, for the patient he tells everything. Because it is an opportunity to return to his village, with his family and to return to do things that he was used to.

Therefore, the leper who had been cured did not stop shouting his testimony of healing, the miracle of his life.

Now, what does this mean for us?

We probably do not have that physical disease, contagious and horrifying. But, there is a disease called spiritual leprosy, more horrible than the external one.

This disease is caused by lack of fasting and prayer, lack of sacrifice, lack of charity and finally by ignorance in the Faith.

This disease is so lethal that it ends with love, faith, unity, dignity, illusions, joy, etc.

It is such a dangerous disease that destroys marriages, divides families, creates conflict and confusion in society.

Spiritual leprosy is very sad and painful, because it leaves empty, unwilling to work, to do something for others, and perhaps thinking only of death that has not yet arrived.

The spiritual leprosy brings to your heart more hatred, selfishness, pride, away from God and the people around you and makes you lonely.

Dear brother and sister, Jesus offers you this healing today. The way to start a spiritual health is to have the humility to ask Jesus, "*If you wish, you can make me clean.*"

Here is the key to the gospel, to cleanse me, because we need to be cleansed of our sin. Nobody can be reconciled, if not clean. No one can serve if he is not healed. No one can pray unless forgiven.

Today we ask the Holy Spirit and the intercession of the Virgin Mary, to be cleansed of our soul; and as St. Paul says, in his letter to the Corinthians "when you eat or drink or do anything else, do it to the glory of God."