

**YOU FILL ME WITH  
THE JOY OF SALVATION!**

*Sixth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time*

*San Ignacio de Loyola Parish*

*February 15, 2015*



### REFLECTION ON THE WORD

**O**ur own personal experiences with chronic or frightening diseases can help us empathize with the leper in today's Gospel. For him no medical breakthrough awaits, no healing looms, no future dawns. Lepers in biblical times were required to proclaim "unclean" and live in social and religious isolation from the community. They lived painful lives without hope. How desperate an entreaty did today's leper make to Jesus! and how marvelous was the



response he received!

Jesus' compassion gave the leper what he deeply wished—to be made clean, yes, but also once again to be restored to relations that were lost, to have a life other than one determined by pain, to have an opportunity for a different outlook on death. Jesus heals more than the man's body. Encounters with Jesus and being healed always fashions a new relationship with him. Freed from pain and isolation, the leper can let his inherent dignity spill over into proclaiming the Good News of a new Presence, a new Awakening, a new Life.

WORDS TO REFLECT UPON:

**A NEW PRESENCE, A NEW AWAKENING,  
A NEW LIFE**

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers,  
intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,  
1 Timothy 2:1*

**Let us pray together today for the chronically ill: Fr.**

**please**  
**pray for**  
**the sick**  
Vega, Sylvia Tasner, Jerry Vega, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, **Maggie Maziarz**, Fr. Vega and Peter and Leida Fiorito. Let us pray in a very special way this week for all persons who are being held hostage in foreign countries and who are subject to horrible torture and possible death.

### LIVING THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

**The Suffering, Death And Resurrection of Christ And Our Participation In It.**

Each of us has been touched by Jesus, healed of pain and suffering, been invited to grow into a deeper relationship with him. Our own inherent dignity is reinforced by Jesus' very personal compassion and care for each of us. We experience this compassion and care in our own moments of deep prayer as we turn to Jesus in our need. We experience Jesus' compassion and care in the helping hand of another, in the unexpected pat on the back for something we've done well, in a burst of energy we get from another noticing some good we've done. In these and many other ways, goodness abounds and relationships grow.

**Words to reflect upon: goodness abounds**

### PRAYER FOR THE LENTEN SEASON

Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of the earth; you claimed us for Christ in the waters of Baptism. Look upon us as we enter these Forty Days bearing the mark of ashes, and bless our journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth. May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts. Amen

**There will be a Mass in English on  
Ash Wednesday  
at 7:00 pm**



**What we carry within ourselves are both the gifts we have been given and the challenges we must meet within ourselves.**

— Joan Chittister OSB

## POPE FRANCIS

### Tips for a Happier Life from Pope Francis



1. **“Live and let live.”** Everyone should be guided by this principle, he said, which has a similar expression in Rome with the saying, “Move forward and let others do the same.”
2. **“Be giving of yourself to others.”** People need to be open and generous toward others, he said, because “if you withdraw into yourself, you run the risk of becoming egocentric. And stagnant water becomes putrid.”
3. **“Proceed calmly” in life.** The pope, who used to teach high school literature, used an image from an Argentine novel by Ricardo Güiraldes, in which the protagonist — gaucho Don Segundo Sombra — looks back on how he lived his life.
4. **A healthy sense of leisure.** The Pope said “consumerism has brought us anxiety”, and told parents to set aside time to play with their children and turn off the TV when they sit down to eat.
5. **Respect and take care of nature.** Environmental degradation “is one of the biggest challenges we have,” he said. “I think a question that we’re not asking ourselves is: ‘Isn’t humanity committing suicide with this indiscriminate and tyrannical use of nature?’”
6. **Stop being negative.** “Needing to talk badly about others indicates low self-esteem. That means, ‘I feel so low that instead of picking myself up I have to cut others down,’” the Pope said. “Letting go of negative things quickly is healthy.”
7. **Don’t proselytize; respect others’ beliefs.** “We can inspire others through witness so that one grows together in communicating. But the worst thing of all is religious proselytism, which paralyzes. The church grows by attraction, not proselytizing,” the Pope said.

### PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE



*First Reading Leviticus 13:1-2; 44-46*

How would you feel if because of some ritual, you were made to tear your clothes, be excluded, made to live apart from those you love and forced to announce your presence by shouting, “Unclean”? Ponder on the many unwritten rules, regulations and rituals concerning AIDS victims we have constructed...and how they could be improved just by taking people’s feelings into consideration.

*Gospel Mark 1:40-45*

“Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, ‘I do will it. Be made clean.’ If you come to Jesus with a problem, do you think he will be moved with pity and touch you in some healing way? Have you been healed in any way? How can your scars help in healing others?”

### — The Liturgical Corner

**Wednesday, February 18th, is Ash Wednesday.**

The ashes that will mark our foreheads are both a symbol of our repentance for our sins and a sign that we truly seek to listen to the voice of God calling out “Come back to me, with all your heart”. That is the invitation of each Lent. Today is our day to accept it. Salvation is always up close and personal.

**Anything worth doing is worth preparing for and Lent is certainly worth doing.**

Creighton University has some excellent resources available to help us in our preparation at [www.creighton.edu/Online\\_Ministries](http://www.creighton.edu/Online_Ministries). Praying Lent 2015 has links to several good sites in [Preparing for Lent](#), especially [What Can I Do Before Lent Begins?](#) Good reading...May the good God continue to guide us in our search for Him.



## WHY STAY CATHOLIC?

*From the book of the same name by Michael Leach*

### The most basic ideals and principles of the Church called Catholic

There are more than a few, and it’s not easy to express any of them briefly. Still, in no particular order, herewith a few:

- The ultimate and most immediate meaning and purpose of life is found nowhere **but in the every day love of God**—who is above all our loving Father and Mother who is closer to us than we are to ourselves—and the people we live and work with most closely.
- Scripture cannot be separated from its source, the Christian community’s 2000-year-old, here-and-now, **ongoing experience of the risen Christ** (Sacred Tradition)
- The church, meaning all the baptized, is gifted with **Seven Sacraments**, tangible signs and carriers of the invisible, real, nourishing, healing love of Christ. (A related principle: the sacred is in the ordinary.)
- The church, the **People of God**, is a community that transcends and exists in both time and eternity and we participate in this community even now.
- All this, and so much more, means that you’ll never find me anywhere but in the one, holy, catholic, apostolic, knockabout, utterly imperfect, sometimes shamefully sinful, regularly frustrating, **always joy evoking, grace-filled Catholic Church**.