



Diocese of Rockville Centre New Evangelization

"... the Church needs genuine witnesses for the new evangelization: men and women whose lives have been transformed by meeting with Jesus, men and women who are capable of communicating this experience to others. The Church needs saints. All are called to holiness, and holy people alone can renew humanity."

*Pope John Paul II
August 2004*

Volume II, Issue I I

Theme: Giving Thanks

November 2007

ENCOUNTER: With The Lord Jesus

As he continued his journey to Jerusalem, he traveled through Samaria and Galilee. As he was entering a village, ten lepers met (him). They stood at a distance from him and raised their voice, saying, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!" And when he saw them, he said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." As they were going they were cleansed. And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. He was a Samaritan.

Luke 17: 11—16

For your reflection:

- I. The Lepers met up with Jesus "between" Samaria and Galilee because lepers were outcasts. They had to be separated from others. They were thought to be impure (sinful). They were therefore very mindful of their need for mercy (healing). The ostracism they experienced actually had a medicinal effect. It led to their cry for help. They encountered Jesus as outcasts. And Jesus cured them. Are we able to see and even give thanks that our sinfulness could be used to get us to cry out to Jesus for help and healing?
- II. Many times we do cry out as the Lepers did, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." What do you think the lepers saw in Jesus that made them say this? What does your heart and soul notice about Jesus that makes you want to go to Him also?
- III. Yet, only one returned to give thanks. Why is it always natural for us to ask for help from God but we are not as quick to prostrate before Him in thanksgiving as only the one leper did?



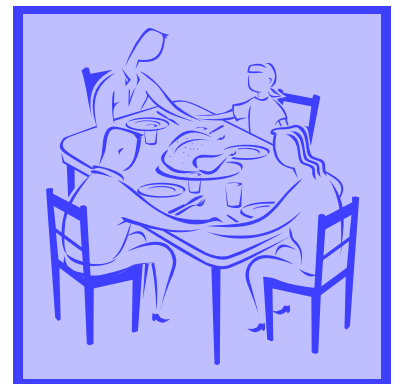
CONVERSION: To The Way Of The Lord

For I do not do the good I want, but I do the evil I do not want. Now if (I) do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. So, then, I discover the principle that when I want to do right, evil is at hand. For I take delight in the law of God, in my inner self, but I see in my members another principle at war with the law of my mind, taking me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Miserable one that I am! Who will deliver me from this mortal body? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, I myself, with my mind, serve the law of God but, with my flesh, the law of sin.

Romans 7: 19-25

For your reflection:

- I. These verses also have us reflecting on "giving thanks" to God even as we think of our sinfulness. This is because we also immediately may think and should think of God's mercy! Are you able to understand Paul's point of even though we may feel our wretchedness as sinners we should think of the mercy of God?
- II. Paul's profound exploration of the human conscience is very helpful. He is teaching us that rather than hiding or covering over our human tendencies, we should bring them out into the open. This process enables true conversion. How do you examine your conscience and life in such a way?
- III. We see from Paul's experience how this tug of war between good and evil affects us. Paul mentions his inner self as the place where he "delights in the law of God". As you journey to your own conversion, do you make sure it is carried out within your most inner self as well?



EUCHARIST: "I Am Not Worthy To Receive You"

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins.

Matthew 26: 26-28

For your reflection:

- I. Our word "Eucharist" means to give thanks. This sentiment is also expressed in the word "blessing". There is no difference in meaning. Thanksgiving is a blessing of God for His generosity toward us. How does this understanding help you in participation at Mass? How does it help you understand the true meaning of our country's day of Thanksgiving?
- II. Jesus Himself becomes the substance of this saving meal. A meal that saves one not from physical starvation but spiritual starvation. Without feeding on Him, we have no life within us. What do we learn about our own need to "nourish" each other from the sacrificial offering of Jesus?
- III. Does this passage help you appreciate the offering of a "grace" before meals??

HOLINESS: "So Be Perfect As Your Heavenly Father Is Perfect"

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3: 12-17

For your reflection:

- I. This passage demonstrates that religion is much more than a list of beliefs. It's essence is a new way of living. After a listing of the virtues of this way of life, Paul writes: "and be thankful". At the end of the day, right as your head hits the pillow, do you have such thankfulness within you? What do you have within you?
- II. We always need a reason to "give thanks". What is Paul's reason? Is it yours as well?
- III. Paul, in these six verses, mentions "giving thanks" to God three times. A holy life is one that is constantly saying "thank you" to God. Do you have this much thankfulness inside of you? Do you now notice that you have more to be thankful for than what you once thought?

MISSION: "You Are Witnesses Of These Things"

This I declare, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about: "Death is swallowed up in victory. here, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15: 50-58

For your reflection:

- I. Paul concludes this letter with the announcement that is the heart of the missionary activity of the Church. There is victory over sin and death through the resurrection of Jesus! Why is this the heart of the Christian message?
- II. These verses remind us that we cannot bring about our own salvation. We are in gratitude to another for this—to Jesus! Can it be that many people are without hope in life and are unhappy because they are constantly meeting up against the futility of trying to save themselves from sin and death?
- III. "fully devoted to the work of the Lord". Is this your mission in life?

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