



Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

October 13, 2019

Healed by Jesus

By Mary Katharine Deeley

When my daughter was seven, she cut her thumb badly while trying to make a fruit salad. When she cried out for me, I quickly dressed her younger sister and we went to the hospital for stitches. She was in pain and crying when the doctor injected the anesthetic into the hand to numb the pain. With a firm, but quiet voice he looked at her and said, “Katy, does it still hurt?” She stopped all at once and said with a voice of wonder, “No.” He proceeded to stitch up the thumb and congratulated her on being brave. She thanked him and then talked about him for the rest of the day.

I still remember the surprised look when she finally realized her thumb no longer hurt. She didn’t know that the anesthetic had taken effect because she expected to still be in pain.

The ten lepers who met Jesus knew they couldn’t approach anyone and they had undoubtedly called out to others to help them. When Jesus told them to show themselves to the priests, they went their way not expecting to be cured and still deep in their isolation. Some inner voice made one leper suddenly aware that he had been made clean. He stopped, full of wonder. The priest would still have to inspect him before he could return to his community, but his desire to look at Jesus one more time and give thanks for his mercy had to come first. We don’t know what made him so mindful of his healing, but his response inspires us. How has Jesus touched and healed you? How will you thank him, and who will you tell? +

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Sunday Readings

2 Kings 5:14–17

[Naaman’s] flesh became again like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

2 Timothy 2:8–13

If we are unfaithful he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.

Luke 17:11–19

[Jesus said,] “Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?...Stand up and go; your faith has saved you.”

A Word from Pope Francis

Often it is better simply to slow down, to put aside our eagerness in order to see and listen to others, to stop rushing from one thing to another and to remain with someone who has faltered along the way.

—The Joy of the Gospel
(*Evangelii Gaudium*),
November 24, 2013



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS REFLECTION

- Jesus healed foreigners and his Chosen People alike. Do we also show compassion to those unlike us?
- When was the last time you were healed through the sacrament of penance?

Peace: Possibility or Pipe Dream?

By Jim and Susan Vogt

“Peace be with you,” we say glibly each week at Mass. As with many memorized responses, it can become a stale phrase that doesn’t connect to our everyday lives. Consider the following:

- “My coworker’s whining drives me crazy. She’s always complaining, criticizing my work or making snide remarks.”
- “If you don’t stop playing that video game, I’m throwing it out and canceling your cell phone plan. It’s like you’re addicted.”
- “Yes, we need a new jail, but not in my back yard! I pay good money to live in a safe neighborhood. Put it in the inner city where it belongs.”

Peace at Home

We used to lament that governments and peoples across the world couldn’t get along. Why can’t they be reasonable and negotiate their differences? Why can’t they share our planet’s resources in peace? There’s enough to go around if we don’t get greedy.

But then we had children and saw how easily they could push our buttons and rouse our anger. We now understand that global strife has its roots in the same emotional dynamics of any family, even within the psyche of individuals, as we



deal with people who annoy, offend, and hurt us. The goal, of course, is to become more peaceable persons, families, and communities, but it’s not as easy as just saying at Mass, “Peace be with you.”

To live the words of the Mass, “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,” we must be willing to

learn peacemaking skills. Some come by these naturally—their families modeled healthy conflict resolution or they’re naturally easygoing. For the rest of us, it’s a struggle to balance our wants against the common good, let go of the need to have our way, and learn some practical skills.

Five “Cs” of Conflict Resolution

Here are some strategies for resolving conflicts nonviolently:

1. Communicate: Instead of attacking with a “you” statement (“You make me so angry when you forget to call”), first identify your own feelings and express them in an “I” statement (“I feel frustrated when you don’t call to tell me you’ll be late”).

2. Concede: There are occasions when a mature adult says, “This seems more important to you than to me. I’m willing to let you have your way.” Consider that conceding might save both parties stress and heartache.

3. Compromise: The most common skill for conflict resolution involves finding a solution between two positions: “I’ll let you watch your TV program today if I can choose tomorrow.”

4. Chance: Sometimes nobody wants to budge in a dispute. If the disagreement is between children or the decision isn’t grave, try settling it by chance—toss a coin or pick a number.

5. Create: A helpful strategy is seeking a “win-win” solution. This takes creativity as all parties let go of their original desires and brainstorm alternatives that meet everyone’s needs. Instead of fighting over the TV, play basketball.

The price of peace is neither cheap nor quick. It takes courage and selflessness to move beyond our own will to seek the common good. It often means giving up personal power and control to consider how we need to change. Sometimes the peacemaker may be taken advantage of or hurt, but what is the alternative—hurting others?

Think of one person you can’t stand. Now, think of one positive or redeeming trait of that person. If you can’t do it, then how can we expect communities and countries to move past anger to love? +



Lord, I am grateful for your healing presence. Help me recognize your presence in my life with praise and gratitude.

—From Grateful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

October 14–19

Monday, Weekday:

Rom 1:1–7 / Lk 11:29–32

Tuesday, St. Teresa of Ávila:

Rom 1:16–25 / Lk 11:37–41

Wednesday, Weekday:

Rom 2:1–11 / Lk 11:42–46

Thursday, St. Ignatius of Antioch:

Rom 3:21–30 / Lk 11:47–54

Friday, St. Luke:

2 Tm 4:10–17b / Lk 10:1–9

Saturday, Sts. John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues:

Rom 4:13, 16–18 / Lk 12:8–12