

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021

(LEC. 77)

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1. LEVITICUS 13:1-2, 44-46
2. 1 CORINTHIANS 10:31-11:1
3. MARK 1:40-45

GOSPEL RELATED:
CCC 1504, 2616

**FOCUS: JESUS WANTS TO
HEAL US OF EVERYTHING THAT
CAUSES SEPARATION OR BROKEN
RELATIONSHIPS.**



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God created us because he wants to be in relationship with us. He does not have to love us. God *wants* to. The reason we exist is *relationship*. We were made for love. This is a kind of Good News that is not possible without the Divine, for no other love for us is so pure, so unconditional, so freely given.

But, in spite of the perfection of this design, we are also broken by sin. Even though we are made for relationship, so many things separate us and limit the love for which we were created.

Our first reading reminds us that physical circumstances such as illness can separate us from one another. There are many other physical forms of separation, such as a job that takes a loved one far away, an emotional wound that demands physical distance as a response, and, of course, death itself.

But spiritual separation also wounds us. Just as leprosy could be passed from one person to another, so also

sin infects and hurts those around us. We can see how gossip or lack of integrity influences others. Selfishness or greed hurts those who are most vulnerable. The damage of sin is infectious, just as physical illness is contagious.

This is the brokenness into which Jesus enters with his mercy. *If you wish, you can make me clean*. The leper's faith can lead us also to this confidence today. Jesus, the eternal Word of God, *moved with pity*, draws near to us! He reaches out to us, in a particular way through his sacramental presence in this Mass, because he *wants* to heal every separation, whether it be physical, emotional, or spiritual. He does *will* to make us clean.

What wounds can we bring to him today? What broken relationship, separation, or sin needs his healing presence? This is why Christ invites us here, this is why he draws near and reaches out to us. *I do will it*, he tells us, *be made clean*.

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