

- A quick note about the Archdiocese’ efforts to stem the spread of the flu: No cups for communion and the like, as you know, but the Archbishop further asks to not take the Eucharist on the tongue if you normally do so, but in the hand as is more common in order to prevent possible transfer of germs by ministers’ hands. You can go back to “on the tongue” when the measures are lifted.
- We won’t deny communion on the tongue...but remember always charity in all things.

-
- Now the Gospel today shows the great compassion of Jesus...and, therefore, the great compassion of God.
 - In Jesus’ time lepers were outcast...not allowed to even approach anyone who were not themselves lepers.
 - But when this leper comes and begs Jesus for healing, Jesus does not shrink away, or even rebuke him...but rather: “*Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, “I do will it. Be made clean.” ...[and] the leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean.*”
 - What a wonderful image of Jesus’, and therefore of God’s, love for us.

-
- And so, as we see Jesus care and compassion for the lowly, the downtrodden and the afflicted, we come today to this year’s Annual Catholic Appeal in-pew pledge drive today.
 - You all reach many people by the example of your lives in our community, but each year we stretch out on the larger diocesan effort so that people may be reached who might otherwise go unreached.
 - After all, it is our duty and mission—both personal and communal—to seek bring our community and the world to Christ.
 -
 - Many of you will have received ACA letters and forms in the mail and have given already; good job.
 - And now forms are being passed out which you can discuss and fill out and return in the collection, or take home and return to the

office any time, or send to diocese on your own; the envelopes are pre-addressed. Mailing it directly saves our office staff some work.

- When you do, please mark down our parish (IHM) when you donate, so it will be counted to our parish's assigned goal of \$87,000—easily attainable in this community, especially if all of us contribute generously.
- And you can also go online to our website anytime, which links to the ACA site.
-
- The Archdiocese does depend on this annual fundraising for its evangelizing efforts, assisting parishes in educating both young and adults, aiding the poor and the disenfranchised...and, perhaps most essentially, educating and training seminarians to be priests.
- ...for we certainly need more priests. We're ordaining seminarians barely at replacement level, and many priests in our archdiocese are past retirement age (70) but continue to work out of their devotion to God and in service to God's Church.
- It costs over \$1 million just to feed and water and train the seminarians each year, and we have a new deacon training class has also begun, in which IHM has three candidates. These are also supported by the ACA...as well as many programs throughout the archdiocese outlined in the brochure being passed out—helping the poor, prisoners, refugees, immigrants, and so many in need and in dire circumstances.
- Dcn Tai Pham—one of our summer seminarians—is being ordained a priest this spring. Fr. Robert Bustamante was ordained last year, and Fr. Chris Bernabe a few years ago. Nathan Lopez continues in his studies, as does Jason Marshall...as does our own IHM seminarian Jacob Romero...all educated and supported partially by the funds YOU provide.
-
- We cannot complain too much about a shortage of priests if we don't support them—both by monetary support, and encouraging sons to at least consider the priesthood.

- And we remember St. Paul: “*As for the rich in this world [and who among us is NOT rich compared to St. Paul’s day?] charge them...to do good, to be rich in good deeds, liberal and generous...that they may take hold of the life which is life indeed.*” (1Timothy 6:17-19)
- And as Jesus says: “*Fear not, little flock...give alms; provide yourselves... with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail...*” (Luke 12:32-33)
-
- So let us not fear boldness in generosity...remembering Jesus assurance “*...the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you.*” (Mark 4:24)
- Don’t settle for mediocrity...the minimum just to check a box, but something really reflecting the blessings God has given you.
- Archbishop Wester often says: “How much should you give? Well...how thankful are you for what God has given you?” Especially remembering that His Son died on a cross for us.
- And once given, we don’t miss it... and we know it is a gift of thanksgiving to Our Lord’s Church so that she can continue His work in the world...helping to heal the spiritual sickness in the world as He healed the leper today.
-
- As we read in St. Paul today: “*...do everything for the glory of God...not seeking [one’s] own benefit but that of the many, that they may be saved.*”
- ...knowing that God cannot...and WILL not...be outdone in generosity...not in this world, and most certainly not in the next.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading 1 Lv 13:1-2, 44-46

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron,
"If someone has on his skin a scab or pustule or blotch
which appears to be the sore of leprosy,
he shall be brought to Aaron, the priest,
or to one of the priests among his descendants.
If the man is leprous and unclean,
the priest shall declare him unclean
by reason of the sore on his head.

"The one who bears the sore of leprosy
shall keep his garments rent and his head bare,
and shall muffle his beard;
he shall cry out, 'Unclean, unclean!'
As long as the sore is on him he shall declare himself unclean,
since he is in fact unclean.
He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp."

Responsorial Psalm Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11

R. (7) I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.
Blessed is he whose fault is taken away,
whose sin is covered.
Blessed the man to whom the LORD imputes not guilt,
in whose spirit there is no guile.
R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.
Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
my guilt I covered not.
I said, "I confess my faults to the LORD,"
and you took away the guilt of my sin.
R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.
Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you just;
exult, all you upright of heart.
R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Reading 2 1 Cor 10:31-11:1

Brothers and sisters,
Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,
do everything for the glory of God.
Avoid giving offense, whether to the Jews or Greeks or
the church of God,
just as I try to please everyone in every way,
**not seeking my own benefit but that of the many,
that they may be saved.**
Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Gospel Mk 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said,
"If you wish, you can make me clean."

Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand,
touched him, and said to him,

"I do will it. Be made clean."

The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean.

Then, warning the him sternly, he dismissed him at once.

He said to him, "See that you tell no one anything,
but go, show yourself to the priest
and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed;
that will be proof for them."

The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter.

He spread the report abroad

so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly.

He remained outside in deserted places,

and people kept coming to him from everywhere.