

## “If You Wish You Can make Me Clean”

I watched the latest film on Fatima a couple of weeks ago and was impressed by one particular scene. The movie in part shows an interview an agnostic journalist has with an adult Sister Lucia at the monastery she was residing in.

In the scene the journalist peppered her with questions trying to cast doubt on the whole Fatima experience. In response to one question Sister Lucia looks at the journalist and calmly replies ... something like, “Look I do not have all the answers to the workings of our God,” I thought it a profound scene ... showing the humility of Sister Lucia up against the almost arrogant attitude of the journalist. Think of that in light of our second reading where St. Paul tells us avoid giving offense ....

Sister Lucia did not raise her voice, did not belittle the journalist but rather became an imitator of Christ. She spoke

truth of what she experienced and did not try to brow beat the journalist.

We cannot grasp our God without coming from a point of humility, without relenting that God ultimately has the eternal plan.

The mystery of God abounds in our Gospel reading as Jesus goes about His earthly ministry. We can look at our Gospel and be filled with why's. Why did not Jesus heal everyone? ..... why did Jesus tell the man to tell no one? In this scene from Fatima, the journalist and Sister Lucia were divided by a screen .... The journalist on the visitor side and Sister on the side of a resident of the monastery. To answer our why's let us imagine the screen as Faith and we can sit on the side of the visitors or take the side where we are all in. Knowing full well that no matter what side we are on we will never fully grasp the mind of our God. But Jesus, God

walking the earth as flesh is our beginning to knowing the Father. I love this definition of miracles that I found in one of my resources: "The Bible uses 3 main words to refer to a miracle ..... sign, wonder and power. They are acts of God beyond human understanding that displays God's power, inspires wonder in humans and acts as a sign that God is at work in the world."

We have to look at the leper's healing as not Jesus proclaiming Himself as some kind of faith healer or a magician that will perform magic shows. But someone who is directing us to eternity. Someone who was not bound to this earth and tries to show us that we are not either.

Sadly, many may feel like the leper today, our 1<sup>st</sup> reading tells us that the leper must dwell apart making his abode outside the camp. How close to this is those locked in nursing homes, hospitals with COVID, symptoms or the many

other diseases, our prisoners that are out there. Some even in their own homes with no visitation allowed from family or friends. They are locked out of the human touch and the comfort of their spiritual foundations of the Sacraments.

It is also striking if we look at our last line of today's Gospel how close Jesus must have felt to the leper. "He remained outside in deserted places and people kept coming to him from everywhere. "

We as Christians in a sense must take on Christ's mission here on earth not in the vein that we are faith healers or magicians but that we work in humility recognizing we don't have all the answers nor will we ever fully understand the mystery of the Trinity. But let us pray that through The Father, Son and Holy Spirit we will be guided on how we are to continue Christ's mission in these trying days. Perhaps more phone calls to those who are not here or can't be. Maybe

cards and letters to nursing homes or hospitals addressed to, "anyone who may need a friend". These may not seem like a lot but let me leave you with this quote I came across by Edmund Burke who was an Anglo-Irish statesman and philosopher in the 1700's he said, "Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little."