



## Things to Ponder

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## 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Luke 17:11-19

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Dear Friends and Visitors,

The cooler weather of autumn serves to invigorate our spirits and to awaken us to the holidays that are around the corner. The child within me is always excited about these busy days; yet, as one of our older parishioners reminded me, winter follows soon thereafter!

Our age, health, and unique circumstances color the way we look at life. Nothing changes our perspective more than illness or handicaps. In today's gospel, Jesus was confronted by ten lepers. Like the afflictions of AIDS, cancer, dementia, or alcoholism of today, the leprosy of ancient times was an equal opportunity illness. Victims of this highly contagious and disfiguring disease were condemned to live apart from the rest of society. They had to ring a bell whenever a healthy person came nearby and cry out, "Unclean, unclean!"

The ten we meet in the gospel story did not follow protocol. In fact, they were rather bold in approaching Jesus. Nine were Jews; one was a Samaritan. This distinction made no difference when they were ill; but when they were healed, it seems the old prejudice returned. Notice what Jesus said to the one who returned to give thanks, who was a Samaritan: "...your faith has saved you!"

When we are touched by the healing power of the Lord, it is not enough simply to go our way as if nothing happened. Genuine healing requires proclamation and willingness to risk everything for the sake of the good news in the spirit of St. Paul's words to his disciple, Timothy:

*"I bear with everything for the sake of those who were chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory."  
(2 Timothy 2, 10)*

Happy Columbus Day.

*Rev. Bill Foley*

The Shrine of The Most Blessed Sacrament  
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