

FOR THE WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 10-11th, 2024

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel reading

Mk 1:40-45

A leper came to him [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 him sternly, he dismissed him at once.

Then 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.

Intercession

That, filled with faith like the brave leper, we may give, out of our faith, to make our diocesan Catholic Ministry Appeal a success.

Copy for bulletin announcement

In today's Gospel story, Jesus cleanses a leper with the words, "*Be made clean*" (Mark 1:41). The faith of this leper moves God to give him the outward cleanliness he sought. This healing would allow him to re-enter Jewish society, from which he had been cast out.

Jesus says he came that "they might have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). He didn't just come to cleanse the outside, like the Pharisees, who "*cleanse the outside of the cup and the dish*" (Luke 11:39). He came to renew *all* of us, outside and in.

We need your help to meet the many needs of those around you. Jesus says that, "*As to what is within, give alms, and behold, everything will be made clean for you*" (Luke 11:41). Jesus says there is a connection between almsgiving and the true cleanness of life which the Jews sought. Small wonder: Almsgiving requires sacrifice. It requires the same spirit of sacrifice that we need to take up our personal cross valiantly. Our Catholic Ministry Appeal is in full swing and encourage you to take this opportunity to help us help others.

Copy for pulpit announcement

Today, in Mark 1, Jesus pronounced the leper clean. Jesus also said in Luke 11 that, *“As to what is within, give alms, and behold, everything will be made clean for you.”* Our Catholic Ministry Appeal needs your almsgiving spirit of sacrifice. When you give, you receive from Jesus, and experience the joy of the purity of life that is His gift. Please give, so we can rejoice together in what he gives us all back!

Social media post/content

Photo: Stock photo of sun shining through a beautiful, clean window.

Text: *“Be made clean.”* – Mark 1:41

Copy: Only Jesus possesses the power to speak the words of interior purity. Please join in supporting our Catholic Ministry Appeal, so that together we can help more souls hear these soul-reviving words.