

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
February 11, 2018
The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46 + 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 + Mark 1:40-45



Reflection by: Sister Patricia Crowley, OP

All Christians are called to be hospitable, but it is more than serving a meal or filling a bed, opening our door—it is to open ourselves, our hearts, to the needs of others. Hospitality is not just shelter, but the quality of welcome behind it.
—Dorothy Day

Psalm 32 reminds us that in biblical times disease was thought to be the result of sinfulness. Those declared unclean were excluded from the community as well as worship. For individuals, exclusion from temple was a fate worse than death.

Jesus enters the picture as the healer of lepers. The law offers them no hope. Jesus is key to their re-entry into the human community. Both Jesus and the Leper break the law; the leper in speaking to Jesus and Jesus in allowing himself to be touched, going further by speaking to the man and healing him!

Leprosy severely disfigures and disables a person; so does sin. The touch of Jesus heals the leprosy as well as any sin present. That is why at Mass, we pray, “*only say the word, and my soul shall be healed.*” Forego the touch, Lord! We would be so overwhelmed if you just said the word!

Can we see the healing in others? Can we see it in ourselves? We are told not to judge others. Should we judge ourselves? Isn't the Lord at work even though we cannot see? We do not have to see the effects of healing for it to be at work within us and others. As was said of hospitality, healing is happening deep within, not just on the surface, we hope.