

**October 13-14, 2007**  
**Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Second Kings 5:14-17      Second Timothy 2:8-13      Luke 17:11-19**

A few years back, those afflicted with AIDS were our modern day lepers. You may recall the hysteria accompanying the disease...people not even wanting to be in the same room with a person so afflicted...and condemnatory presumptuousness about how they contracted the disease. To be sure, Ryan White helped to alter the views of all but the most bigoted. Who are today's lepers, those shunned by society and told to keep away? The molesters of children, criminal priests included, certainly come to mind. Violent criminals who prey on the innocent would probably be on our list. How about those who may not be a violent criminal but whose behavior perhaps makes them undesirable in our eyes: those afflicted with mental illness, the homeless, the illegal alien who might happen to be Mexican? In our societal rush to 'protect ourselves', which may or may not be justified, do we blind ourselves to the presence of God's grace dwelling within them just as strongly as it dwells within us? Have we mistakenly presumed that God treats as lepers those we treat as lepers? What if we find out that God, the very God to whom we pray and wish to be joined, actually ENJOYS their company...the lepers of our society? The double whammy of the Samaritan leper invites us as to consider the Catholicity of our discipleship of Jesus Christ. Yes, we have standards and laws and the politics of somehow all trying to get-along. BUT, as we wrestle with all of that, are we also mindful of the dignity of Christ that dwells within each of the people we might shun? How do we inconveniently add to the equation that, while we might not like someone,...the grace of God is nonetheless still within them...and if we treat them like lepers...what if they have the very grace for which we have been praying? Funny thing about Jesus, he never flinched when sinners or lepers drew near to him (neither did St. Francis of Assisi who kissed the leper.) We however (myself included) flinch all the time...and try to keep a comfortable buffer. How do we do that and still follow the example of Jesus...who we say we are trying to follow?

Thank you for sharing this Autumn weekend with our Corpus Christi Family, Do we have the pleasure of your picture on our Family Picture Wall? A nice 3 X5 picture of you will be most appreciated so we can add your smiling face to our wall in time for the holidays (when so many extended families visit...and you want to show off your ownership of Corpus Christi!) Our Apple Orchard Autumn Mass and Hoe-down in Oak Glen draws near on Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, make sure you make your reservations promptly (same price as it has been for the last three years!) Please take a Bulletin with you on your way home...and remember, you are loved. FKB