

Our Faith on Sunday

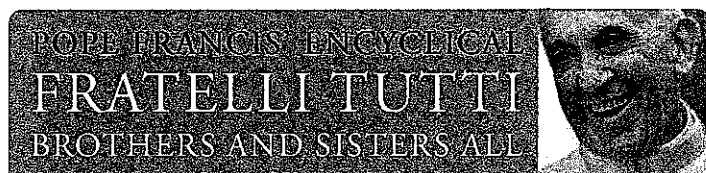
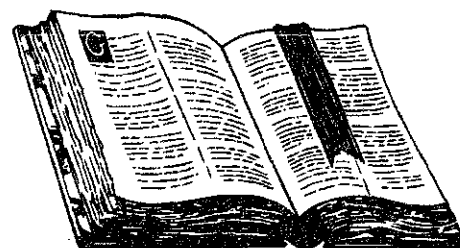
GOSPEL REFLECTION



In today's gospel reading we hear about a second "good Samaritan". Out of ten who were cured of leprosy he is the only one who returns to give

thanks to Jesus. What is highlighted here is the reality that love only reaches its goal when it becomes reciprocal. Jesus curing the lepers is already love but it is not enough. To make it complete the love needs to be returned, just as a service in tennis needs a return for the game to be played. The commandment of love of neighbour already existed before the coming of Jesus. That is why he called his commandment to "love one another" a "new commandment". If love goes only in one direction it can leave open the possibility of the one who "loves" as quietly feeling superior to the one who is loved. Reciprocity in love restores the balance. When money is the currency, the rich person can all too easily look down upon the poor person. Instead, when love is the

currency we all find ourselves at the same level. It may happen that I find it easier to love than to allow myself to be loved. When I love I am the one in control. I can decide when and who to love. When someone reaches out to me in love it is the one who loves who has taken the initiative, just as Jesus did in curing the ten lepers. When someone loves me will I be like the nine who walked away or will I be the Samaritan who returns the love that has been received?



FORGIVING BUT NOT FORGETTING

254. I ask God "to prepare our hearts to encounter our brothers and sisters, so that we may overcome our differences rooted in political thinking, language, culture and religion. Let us ask him to anoint our whole being with the balm of his mercy, which heals the injuries caused by mistakes, misunderstandings and disputes. And let us ask him for the grace to send us forth, in humility and meekness, along the demanding but enriching path of seeking peace". 236

236. Homily, Amman, Jordan (24 May 2014): Insegnamenti II, 1 (2014), 593.

Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation EVANGELII GAUDIUM

24. The Church which "goes forth" is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice. An evangelizing community knows that the Lord has taken the initiative, he has loved us first (cf. 1 Jn 4:19), and therefore we can move forward, boldly take the initiative, go out to others, seek those who have fallen away, stand at the crossroads and welcome the outcast. Such a community has an endless desire to show mercy, the fruit of its own experience of the power of the Father's infinite mercy. Let us try a little harder to take the first step and to become involved. Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. The Lord gets involved and he involves his own, as he kneels to wash their feet. He tells his disciples: "You will be blessed if you do this" (Jn 13:17). An evangelizing community gets involved by word and deed in people's daily lives; it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary, and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
 Lord, who could stand?
 But with you is found forgiveness,
 O God of Israel.

Ps 129: 3-4

is not bound! Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

COLLECT

May your grace, O Lord, we pray,
 at all times go before us and follow after
 and make us always determined
 to carry out good works.
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
 Holy Spirit,
 God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful — for he cannot deny himself.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL****Alleluia, alleluia.**

1 Thessalonians 5:18

**In everything give thanks;
 for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
 Alleluia.**

FIRST READING

A reading from the Second Book of Kings. 2 Kings 5:14-174

In those days: Naaman the Syrian went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of Elisha, the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and he came and stood before him. And he said, 'Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel; so accept now a present from your servant.' But Elisha said, 'As the LORD lives, before whom I stand, I will receive none.' And Naaman urged Elisha to take it, but he refused. Then Naaman said, 'If not, please let there be given to your servant two mule-loads of earth, for from now on your servant will not offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god but the Lord.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**GOSPEL**

Luke 17:11-19

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.' When he saw them he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, 'Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' And he said to him, 'Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**PSALM**

Psalm 98(97):1. 2-3b. 3c-4. R. cf. 2b

R. The LORD has shown his salvation to the nations.

O sing a new song to the LORD,
 for he has worked wonders.
 His right hand and his holy arm
 have brought salvation.

The LORD has made known his salvation,
 has shown his deliverance to the nations.
 He has remembered his merciful love
 and his truth for the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
 the salvation of our God.
 Shout to the LORD, all the earth;
 break forth into joyous song,
 and sing out your praise.

SECOND READINGA reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy.
2 Timothy 2:8-13

Beloved: Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God

R. Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful
 with the sacrificial offerings,
 that, through these acts of devotedness,
 we may pass over to the glory of heaven.
R. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 33: 11

**The rich suffer want and go hungry,
 but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We entreat your majesty most humbly, O Lord,
 that, as you feed us with the nourishment
 which comes from the most holy Body and Blood of your Son,
 so you may make us sharers of his divine nature.
 Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.