

Fr. Simon Sez

Clergy Days Report: I was gone last Monday afternoon, October 3 to Thursday afternoon, October 6, 2022. We had a very fruitful gathering of all the clergy of our diocese. The primary work was to prepare to implement the pastoral plan “Set Ablaze” which will be a restructuring of our parishes due to a shortage of priests. This presents an opportunity for us to turn this need into a new springtime in our local Church, the Diocese of Sioux Falls. We will do this by providing more efficient and more effective parish ministry for the next ten years according to projections of the number of priests we will have available. I am excited about it, because we will be implementing practical improvements I have been advocating for many years. With the cooperation of our parishioners, we will be working towards maximizing one of our greatest resources in our diocese, our clergy, in support of the mission of the Church, your salvation and the salvation of all. See the “Set Ablaze” announcement below.



Pastoral Planning Process:

Please review the Current Reality Report that can be found at the diocese’s website created for Set Ablaze, a consultative planning process. Bishop DeGrood has asked all Catholics to review the information in preparation for

giving feedback to models that will be shown later this month. If you have not reviewed the information yet, please visit sfatholic.org or setablazesf.org. Your input into this process is important and is greatly appreciated.

Inner Healing Prayer in Our Parishes:

The Matthew Ministry will be giving an information presentation Friday evening, November 4, 2022, on this simple prayer method. After this presentation, individuals can make an appointment with them facilitating the prayer of the individual Saturday & Sunday, November 5 - 6 in our parishes. This guided prayer will help individuals go to the source of their hurts and receive the healing Spirit of Christ and be set free. Save the date! For more general information go to: www.themattthewministry.com. For answers to specific questions, contact me. I have been offering this opportunity in my parishes since about fifteen years ago.



A.A. Meetings Resumed: Alcoholics Anonymous is having open meetings every Monday evening at 8:00 p.m. These are helpful for anyone who has any type of addictive tendencies or obsessive thinking, not just recovering alcoholics. Come to the old west entrance of Sacred Heart Church in Gettysburg, turn left and go downstairs to the old Knights of Columbus (K. of C.) meeting room.

Returning Thanks: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time



2 Kings 5:14–17
Psalm 98:1–4
2 Timothy 2:8–13
Luke 17:11–19

A foreign leper is cleansed and in thanksgiving returns to offer homage to the God of Israel. We hear this same story in both the First Reading and Gospel today.

There were many lepers in Israel in Elisha’s time, but only Naaman the Syrian trusted in God’s Word and was cleansed (see Luke 5:12–14). Today’s Gospel likewise implies that most of the ten lepers healed by Jesus were Israelites—but only a foreigner, the Samaritan, returned.

In a dramatic way, we’re being shown today how faith has been made the way to salvation, the road by which all nations will join themselves to the Lord, becoming His servants, gathered with the Israelites into one chosen people of God, the Church (see Isaiah 56:3–8).

Today’s Psalm also looks forward to the day when all peoples will see what Naaman sees—that there is no God in all the earth except the God of Israel.

We see this day arriving in today’s Gospel. The Samaritan leper is the only person in the New Testament who personally thanks Jesus. The Greek word used to describe his “giving thanks” is the word we translate as “Eucharist.”

And these lepers today reveal to us the inner dimensions of the Eucharist and sacramental life.

We, too have been healed by our faith in Jesus. As Naaman’s flesh is made again like that of a little child, our souls have been cleansed of sin in the waters of Baptism. We experience this cleansing again and again in the Sacrament of Penance—as we repent our sins, beg and receive mercy from our Master, Jesus.

We return to glorify God in each Mass, to offer ourselves in sacrifice—falling on our knees before our Lord, giving thanks for our salvation.

In this Eucharist, we remember “Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David,” Israel’s covenant king. And we pray, as Paul does in today’s Epistle, to persevere in this faith—that we too may live and reign with Him in eternal glory.

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