



Be thankful, with or without mustard

I was assigned as a deacon to our mother church, the Cathedral of St. Peter in downtown Wilmington. It was not uncommon for the doorbell to be rung several times a day by someone asking for some food. It was such a common occurrence that there was a separate refrigerator stocked full of lunchmeats to help feed the homeless.

I will never forget one day when a homeless man rang the bell. I quickly made a ham and cheese sandwich and gave it to him. A few minutes later, the doorbell rang again but more repeatedly. It was the same man who returned the sandwich to me with his special request, "I don't like mayonnaise, can you make me one with mustard?"

Never thankful, never grateful, never satisfied. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus heals 10 lepers and only one returns to say thank you to him. Where did the other nine go? Some Scripture scholars speculate that the other nine went back to their old lives

returning to their workplaces, their native towns, and their families. However, don't you think they should have at least stopped and showed some gratitude to the one who cured them of their leprosy?

Have you ever had one of these experiences of ingrat-

for the blessings in their lives.

All of us have been taught by our parents and our teachers to say "thank you," even for the little things in life. As adults, we are insistent on reminding our children they need to be grateful for what they have in life.

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for our lives that have been healed, touched and changed by Jesus.

To be a follower of Jesus, we must be thankful for the people whom God has put in our lives, as imperfect as they may be. We need to be gracious and loving. We need to be thankful to God as we come each week to thank him for the blessings in our lives: the gift of another day of life, our faith, our parish, our family, God's mercy, God's forgiveness, God's only Son in the Eucharist, God's People, and the list goes on and on.

Let us learn from the good leper who returned to say thank you to Jesus. Let us promise that if anyone of us forgets to be grateful, that we will grab the other by the hand and take them to our church and make them say, "Thank you," to Jesus.

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Readings for Oct. 14 the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kings 5:14-17; 2 Timothy 2:8-13;
Luke 17:11-19

itude? All of us from time to time have had similar moments or have someone in our own lives who is like the beggar who wanted mustard instead of mayonnaise. We know people who are never grateful, who always complain and find it hard to say anything positive. They are quick to point the finger at everyone else and criticize others. But often they do not step up to help make things better or even a little better. They are never satisfied or thankful

And if they did what the nine ungrateful cured lepers did in today's Gospel, we would have grabbed them by the hand and taken them right back to Jesus to say, "Thank you."

What about us? Are we truly thankful for what God has given us or are we ungrateful and wishing we had it better? Each Sunday, we come to celebrate the Eucharist, a word that literally means "thanksgiving." Each Sunday, we are called to lift our voices and our

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