

Showing Our Gratitude for our Many Blessings

There are different ways of showing our gratitude for our many blessings. Appreciation is a good virtue; one that shows that we are aware of others and the blessings that they bring to our lives. In our readings today we have three examples of men receiving the blessings of NEW LIFE and showing appreciation.

First, we hear about Naaman, a respected commander in the Aramean army who happened to be marked with signs of leprosy. A young captured Israeli girl, who came into Naaman's household as a servant to his wife, told her mistress that Naaman could be cured from the leprosy if he would present himself to the holy prophet Elisha.

Elisha instructed Naaman to plunge himself into the Jordan seven times.

(NOTE THE NUMBER SEVEN.)

When Naaman obeyed the holy man, he was cured from his leprosy. He tried to offer a gift to Elisha, but Elisha refused a material offering and so received a pledge to God that He would be the only God in his life. Naaman had a conversion in his life and acknowledged I by taking two mule loads of earth, as sacred ground, to have with him.

Paul writes to Timothy about persevering in the precious gift of faith that they share. He shares the hardship of being locked up in prison for the sake of the gospel of Jesus. But Paul is proud to suffer because of his witness to the living God and the salvation that it brings to others lives. Paul was always seeking opportunities to share Our Lord and considered it denying Christ if he didn't. He instructs us that if we do not share Christ with others that it would be like denying Christ and Christ denying us.

And finally, in our Gospel, we have a thankful witness, who after being cured of leprosy, returns to acknowledge and glorify God in a loud voice. He falls down at the feet of Jesus to give Him homage. He was told to stand up and go to live his life as a witness to the God who renewed him.

All three of our witnesses had conversion experiences that changes their focus. They would never be the same. What about our lives? Do we have

that miracle in our lives that make us eternally grateful? How do we show our thanks to God for offering us eternal life with Him FOREVER?

We can go beyond weekly Mass and make short visits to the Blessed Sacrament during the week.

We can attend Adoration every Friday at 6:30 pm for an hour.

We can come and visit the Blessed Sacrament to prepare for Mass or visit after Mass.

We can pray a prayer of thanksgiving with someone in our family daily.

We can volunteer to pass out Tootsie Rolls and accept donations at one of our selected grocery stores next weekend with the Knights of Columbus. Just stop by the Knights table.

We can dedicate about 20 hours of a weekend on October 26th at our Men's CRHP. The women can do the same on the weekend of January 18th.

Just drop by the table and talk to our team members and they can register you.

Look for the Christ Renews His Parish banner

These are some different ways to show our appreciation to God for sharing His life with us.