

Father Jim's Weekly Bulletin Article for February 4, 2018

Looking Ahead to Next Week: Thursday is the feast day of saints Jerome Emiliani and Josephine Bakhita. Jerome Emiliani (1486-1537) is the patron saint of orphans. Josephine Bakhita (1869-1947) was captured as a child and sold into slavery. Sold several times, she was eventually brought to Italy still as a slave. She was finally able to obtain her freedom under Italian law. Her journey to freedom from physical slavery was very much also a journey of faith. She would become a Christian and a religious sister.

Readings for next week: Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46; 1Corinthians 10:31-11:1; Mark 1:4--45

Reflection: A person with leprosy was afflicted with both a terrible disease and isolation from his community. This was not due to a lack of compassion. There are times when a person afflicted with a serious disease, whether physical or spiritual, must be isolated for their own good and the good of the whole people. Jesus' concern is with the health of the individual and the Church. Often he is seen in scripture reaching out his hand for the healing of one person. That concern remains evident today. Many of us have experienced the power of God's presence during times of serious illness. Subtler is his work in healing the whole people. That is the work of his preaching. Jesus teaches always of the love of God and of his Father's desire that all should be one. As followers of Christ, we give witness to God's love by remembering and caring for all the sick and those in need of our prayers.

1. Share the experience of being with a loved one through serious or terminal illness.

2. Keep those in Hospice, hospitals, nursing homes, and shut-ins especially in your prayers this week.

Prayer: Loving God you have but one desire, one plan for your people. You gather us together that we may be one in love and worship, as You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit are forever One. Bring us into the bond of your love. We shall be your people, and you shall be our God.