

Greeting after "Intro"

Xin chào các con. Tôi rất vui mừng, được đến đây, để dâng thánh lễ, đầu năm với các con. Năm nay, là năm con rồng, Giáp Thìn. Năm con Rồng, tượng trưng cho, quyền lực, sự cao quý, danh dự, may mắn và thành công. Cầu mong, tất cả, những gì, chúng ta làm, trong năm nay, đều vì, vinh quang, của Chúa. Thiên Chúa, đã ban cho, chúng ta, cơ hội, tràn đầy, ân sủng của, Thiên Chúa.

(Greetings to each of you. I am joyful to be here to celebrate the New Year Mass with all of you. This year is the year of the dragon. The year of the Dragon symbolizes power, nobility, honor, luck, and success. May all that we do this year be all for the glory of God. God has given us this opportunity that are filled with God's graces.)

Homily – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Vietnamese Martyrs – February 11, 2024

As the season of Lent draws near, it is good to look for occasions to be silent. It is fitting to get away for a moment, to reflect, to pray, to offer sacrifices and works of charity, and to purify the heart.

Today's readings offer us a good preface for Lent, which begins this coming Wednesday.

Hôm nay, cũng là ngày lễ, Đức Mẹ Lộ Đức. Đó cũng, là Ngày Thế giới, Bệnh nhân. Trong đó, chúng ta, cầu nguyện cho, sự chữa lành, cho tất cả, những người, bị bệnh. Tất cả chúng ta, đều cần, sự chữa lành, và Chúa có thể chữa lành trong Năm Mới này. Chúa Xuân, tức là Chúa Sự Sống, thánh hóa chúng ta về thể xác, tâm trí và tâm hồn.

(Today, is also the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes. Which is also the World Day of the Sick. In Which we pray for healing for all those who are sick. We all need healing and the Lord provides it in this New Year. The Lord of Spring, that is, the Lord of Life, sanctifies us in body, mind and soul.)

The first reading describes the origin of the Jewish laws regarding lepers. Pope Francis says that *“leprosy was considered a form of a curse of God, of profound uncleanness. A leper had to stay away from everyone. They could neither access the temple nor any worship service. Far from God and far from men.”* Leprosy was a symbol of scandal. If a sin is public, it is said to cause scandal because it can foster bad habits among neighbors. Therefore, whoever commits such a sin should leave the community, do penance, and publicly acknowledge their guilt. In a certain way, as the book of Leviticus says, *“he shall cry out, ‘Unclean, unclean!’ As long as the sore is on him he shall declare himself unclean, since he is in fact unclean. He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp.”*

However, we should all be scandalized by our own sins, as we face the immensity of God’s mercy. We should assume the same attitude prescribed to lepers. And that is what Lent is for, so that we can approach the Lord with the humility of the leper of today’s Gospel. He begged on his knees, full of faith and hope: Lord, *“If you wish, you can make me clean.”* And what does Jesus do? The Gospel says that, *“Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, ‘I do will it. Be made clean.’”* (Mk).

There are three steps: to be moved with pity, to approach, and to touch. The Lord feels compassion, so he puts himself in the place of the leper. Jesus does not settle with throwing a coin at him, but he takes the second step. He approaches the leper and first relieves him of loneliness. Then, Jesus goes even further, and touches the leper. It is a scandal in the eyes of the world! That was forbidden! Jesus reveals that God's heart is contrary to the ways of the world, as he invites us to be healed by him of our spiritual leprosy. Finally, Jesus leads the leper back into the social and religious life of the people, as he leads us to dwell in the new life He gives us.

Jesus purifies us with his wounds! The Pope explains that the "leper did not resign himself to the disease nor to the dispositions that made him an excluded man." He fully trusts the omnipotence and goodness of Jesus. In the Lord's Prayer we say: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." To be able to fully trust in God's mercy, we must practice mercy. Remember the three steps: to be moved with pity, to approach, and to touch. Whom? Those excluded by society and by ourselves, due to resentment, selfishness, or prejudice.

Năm tới, là Năm Thánh. Chủ đề là , "Những người, hành hương, của hy vọng." Đức Thánh Cha, đã mời gọi, chúng ta, chuẩn bị cho, Năm Thánh này, bằng cách, cầu nguyện. Tôi hy vọng, năm nay, với tất cả, những ơn lành, của Chúa, chúng ta, phải nhờ, là cần, dấn thân, cầu nguyện, nhiều hơn, và tốt hơn. Đức Thánh Cha, biết nếu chúng ta, cầu nguyện, nhiều hơn, trên thế giới. thì thế giới, sẽ là, một nơi, tốt đẹp hơn. Xin cho, chúng ta, học và noi gương, Đức Mẹ, La Vang, Nữ Vương, Hòa Bình.

(Next year is the Jubilee year. The theme is "Pilgrims of Hope. The Holy Father has invited us to prepare for this Holy Year by praying. I hope that in this year with all these blessings from God, we must remind ourselves that we need to commit ourselves to pray more and better. The Holy Father knows that if we pray more in the world, the world will be a better place. May we learn and imitate Our Lady of La Vang who is the Queen of Peace.)

Before Final Blessing:

Kính chúc, các con, được một năm mới, vui tươi, sức khỏe, dồi dào, và tràn đầy, hạnh phúc, của Chúa, và Mẹ Maria. Chúng ta, đã chào, đón Chúa, và giờ đây, chúng ta, ra ăn mừng. Chúc Mừng Năm Mới!

(I wish all of you a new year of joy, good health, and full of happiness from God and Mother Mary. We have welcomed the Lord, and now we go out to celebrate. Happy New Year!)