Thursday of the First Week in Ordinary Time

Gospel text (*Mk* 1:40-45): A leper came to him [and kneeling down] begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." (...).

The "impulse of the heart" in the encounter with God

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)
(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, the bold request of the leper and the overwhelming reaction of Jesus are the answer to the question: Why did God not create a world in which His presence was more evident and convincingly impressive to everyone?

We live in a world in which God does not show palpable evidence. You cannot look for Him with arrogance, transforming Him like an "experimental object" in "my laboratory". You can only find Him with the impulse of the heart, through the "exodus" of "Egypt". In this world we need to go against the illusions of false philosophies and recognize that we not only live with the "bread", but above all with the obedience to the Word of God.

—Like the leper of today, I look for You, Jesus, with love and inner listening. The feelings that allow "bread" to all are born only by living in obedience.