

Sunday 28th (C) in Ordinary Time

Gospel text (Lk 17,11-19): On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus was passing along the border between Samaria and Galilee, and as He entered a village, ten lepers came to meet him. Keeping their distance, they called to him, «Jesus, Master, have pity on us!». Then Jesus said to them, «Go and show yourselves to the priests». Now, as they went their way, they found they were cured.

One of them, as soon as he saw he was cleansed, turned back praising God in a loud voice, and throwing himself on his face before Jesus, he gave him thanks (...).

The “approachable God”

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Pope Francis)

(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, our God is a God who is approaching us. A God who is close. A God who started walking with His people and then became one of them, in Jesus Christ, to become close.

But not with a metaphysical closeness, but with that closeness that Luke describes when He is going to cure the daughter of Jairus, when people squeezed Him to near suffocation while the poor old lady at the back wanted to touch the brim of His cloak. With that closeness that gave encouragement to those ten lepers to ask Him to clean them up... No one wanted to miss that closeness. He healed, He worked good deeds. Saint Peter says it: "He passed by doing good and healing". Jesus did not do proselytism: He accompanied people! And conversions thus achieved were just by his attitude to accompany, teach, listen.

-The "approachable God," the God who puts His people in a situation to be found. And with this proximity He creates this culture of the encounter that makes us brothers, makes us children, and not members of an NGO.