

From the Pastor's Office

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

One of the marvels of our age is to witness the developments in medical science. We read all the time about advances being made in medicine. It is wonderful and extraordinary. I remember listening to a cancer doctor who told the audience that we live in an age now where cancer is no longer regarded as a death sentence. It is treated as an acute illness. Isn't that amazing? How different it was in ancient times. They knew little or nothing about medicine or illness. Some families still practice their folk medicine remedies given to them by their granny who got the recipe from her granny, all the way back to Adam. In ancient times their greatest fear was if someone picked up a contagious illness like Leprosy. That frightened everyone. The only remedy for leprosy was for the person to isolate themselves completely from their families and communities. Once you caught Leprosy you were sentenced to a lonely life. The ancient belief was also that if you were found to be sick, this was a punishment from God. Either God was punishing you directly, or, God was punishing you for the sins of your parents. Sickness and sinfulness were directly linked. God must be very angry with you if you were walking about with an illness. This story about leprosy becomes the inspiration of the Church's teaching on Reconciliation and Forgiveness. Think also about the story of the man on the stretcher who was healed by Jesus. "To show you your sins are forgiven I order you to get up, pick up your stretcher, and walk." The forgiveness of sin is directly related to the forgiveness of your illness.



As we march into Lent, Ash Wednesday is very near, we are invited to become a Penitential people. We are invited to ponder our sins and ask God for forgiveness. Let the Lord heal my sin by healing my sickness.

With love,
Fr. Pat