

**Fr. John Sassani**  
**Homily Given on October 10, 2010**  
**Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Liturgical Year C**

As I began to think about my homily for this Sunday, several things came to mind. I remember as a child visiting Canada and going through the border crossing. As an adult, I recall that there were parts of Europe, before the creation of the European Union, that were a no-man's land, places that you didn't want to go. I also think about the 1987 movie *Dirty Dancing*, starring Jennifer Grey and Patrick Swayze. In particular, there's a scene about boundaries in dancing with the line, "This is *my* dance space. This is *your* dance space. I don't go into yours. You don't go into mine."

Today's Gospel has much to do with boundaries. Boundaries can be territorial and personal. In the world of Christ, there was a serious boundary between Samaria and Israel that was both geographic and religious. There were laws about boundaries to be kept between lepers and everyone else, laws that were religious and personal. In the Gospel today, Jesus healed ten people of their leprosy. Those who were Jewish went about the established religious practice of keeping separate from lepers. It was the one Samaritan who came back in gratitude.

I wonder what happened to that man. I bet he stayed, stayed because he was grateful. He crossed a real boundary as a Samaritan and lived into gratitude to Christ. Christ's boundary-crossing love changed him.

Christ's boundary-crossing love changed Saul into Paul, from a persecutor to one persecuted. Paul was so changed that even when writing from prison to Timothy, he encouraged Timothy to persevere in his faith. Paul's gratitude, gratitude to the long-haul difference that Christ made in his life, made Paul free – even in prison, persecuted for his faith.

What has Christ done for you? For me? It's a question we must answer for ourselves. For myself, I would not be who I am without Christ: the power of his grace and the difference of his teaching. And my response is gratitude.

In your life of faith, how has Christ's love and grace evoked gratitude from you? What does that gratitude invite? It invites coming here to Mass to express that gratitude; it invites us to the Eucharist to receive Christ's Body and Blood in gratitude; and it invites us to be sent and share with others.

Gratitude motivates us to travel with Jesus and to cross borders and boundaries out of gratitude so that we may give others what we have received.