June 25, 2021 Gospel Matthew 81-4 Homily by Deacon Luis P. Villanueva for 8AM Mass on Friday, at St. Joseph Church, Devine, TX.-Fr. Antonio Hernandez, Pastor-

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, amen. "Lord if you will, you can make me clean"

Our GOD is a loving, merciful and compassionate God, always ready to come to us in our brokenness, in our needs, and in our own "leprosy" of sinfulness, to make us whole and clean again and again. He waits for us to say "Lord ifyou will, you can make me clean" like the leper in today's gospel.

Just as Jesus came down the mountain in today's gospel and healed this leper, Jesus has come down from heaven to give his life on the Cross that we may be cleansed of all sin and healed of our ailments. Through the Sacraments, most specifically the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, and the Sacrament ofthe Holy Eucharist, Jesus continues to heal us of our leprosy of sinfulness.

The leper in suffering from that horrible disease of leprosy, resigned and surrendered to the fact that there was no cure for his condition, but feeling desperate for the healing touch of Jesus, took a giant Ieap of risk and faith, approached Jesus and petitioned "Lord ifyou will, you can make me clean". And Jesus being the compassionate, loving and merciful God healed the leper, saying "1 Will do ü. Be made clean".

We too, in our sufferings, challenges, and sinfulness, desperate for the healing touch of Jesus can come to him for his mercy and healing.

The same Jesus that healed the leper of that terminal disease is in our midst and waits for us to take a leap of faith, surrender ourselves to the fact that all healing is possible through the healing touch of Jesus, and to ask him for his healing touch.

Jesus said, "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me Will also do the works that I do, and Will greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father. And whateveryou ask in My name, I Will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. Ifyou ask anything ofme in My name, I will do it". (John 14:12-14, Matt. 18:19, Mark 11:24).

Now more than ever, Jesus calls us to be his hands, his feet and his voice to reach out those suffering from all forms of ailments, spiritual as well as physical.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to pray for and minister to the sick, the poor, the downtrodden, those in need. We are the temples of Jesus and he wants to use us as his instruments to reach out to those who need his healing touch, love and compassion. May we allow the Holy Spirit to inflame our hearts with the love of Christ that we may continue to bring Jesus to those around us in need.

Señor, si quieres, puedes hacerme limpio".

Nuestro Dios es un Dios amoroso, misericordioso y compasivo, siempre dispuesto a venir a nosotros en nuestra división, en nuestras necesidades, y en nuestro propio "lepra" del pecado, para sanarnos y limpiarnos de esa lepra del pecado, una y otra vez. El nos espera para que le pidamos como el leproso del Evangelio de hoy: "Señor, si tu quieres, puedes sanarme y limpiarme.

El leproso en el sufrimiento de esta horrible enfen-nedad de la lepra, se rendio totalmente al hecho de que no existe cura para su condición, buscaba desesperada el toque sanador de Jesús. All mismo tiempo tomo un salto gigante de fe, tomando el maximo riesgo y se acercó a Jesús para solicitarle "Señor, si quieres, puedes limpiarme" \_ Y Jesús siendo compasivo, amoroso y misericordioso, sanó al leproso, diciendo "Yo Io haré. Queda limpio".

Nosotros también en nuestros sufrimientos, retos y pecaminosidad, desesperadamente tomamos un salto de fe, y de riesgo buscando el toque sanador de Jesús y nos acercamos a él para recibir su misericordia y sanación.

El mismo Jesús que sano al leproso de esa enfermedad terminal está en medio de nosotros y nos espera para dar ese salto de fe, para entregarnos a el. Toda curación es posible mediante el toque de sanación de Jesús.

Pero ahora más que nunca, Jesús nos llama a ser sus manos, sus pies y su voz para llegar a aquellos que sufren de dolencias, en todas sus formas, tanto espiritual como fisico.

Como discípulos de Jesús, estamos llamados a rezar y atender a los enfermos, a los pobres, los oprimidos y a los necesitados. Somos los templos de Jesús y quiere usarnos como sus instrumentos para llegar a quienes necesitan su Toque de sanación, amor y compasión. Hay que permitir Espíritu Santo que inflame nuestros corazones con el amor de Cristo para que podamos seguir traendo a Jesús a quienes nos rodean y que nececitan a Jesus. Que Dios los bendiga