

HOMILY 28TH Sunday Ordinary Time

October 12, 2025

There was a couple who was celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary. The husband was looking over the years of their marriage and he told his wife “You were there when I had to work 2 jobs so that we could pay the bills. You were there when I lost my job. I never saw that coming. You were there when we had the house fire and lost everything. You were there when I was battling cancer. And I have to tell you. I think you are bad luck.” Wow! I guess it depends upon your perspective. I guess if you believe that you are entitled to an easy problem free life, when bad things happen you look for someone to blame. If you believe you are blessed to have had someone who stuck with you in good times and in bad, you feel grateful.

In the Gospel reading, 10 lepers called out to Jesus to be healed. You have to remember that at that time leprosy was a death sentence. You were totally separated from your family and community. The only people you could associate with were other lepers. It was a horrible painful and disfiguring disease. There was no treatment or cure. If you were cured, it would be considered a miracle. That is why you had to show yourself to the priest so that you could reenter the community. Ten were cured, but only one came back to Jesus to thank him. He was not a follower of Jesus. He was the Samaritan, the gentile. He was probably not expecting to be cured and he was grateful to Jesus and came back and thanked him. He received physical and spiritual healing. The other 9 were Jewish followers of Jesus. Maybe they believed that as disciples of Jesus they were entitled to be cured of their leprosy. It seems that the Samaritan had an attitude of gratitude and the disciples had an attitude of entitlement. Just like the husband in the story I told earlier. It depends upon your perspective.

I think if we believe that we are entitled to an easy and comfortable life, if we do all of the right things we will get everything we want, we are going to be disappointed. That is just not what life is. We

enjoy the comfortable and easy times, but life can be hard at times. It is getting through the difficult times that give our life purpose and meaning. As I look back on my life, my greatest accomplishments have come out of the difficulties. And I know we need God in our lives to give it purpose and meaning. I think we need to develop an attitude of gratitude rather than an attitude of entitlement. Life is a gift, and we need to be grateful to God for the good times and for seeing us through the bad times.

I have talked about the gratitude journal before. Every day write down three very specific things you are grateful for. It will change your attitude and you will be happier and less anxious. Here are a couple of things I have to be grateful for. I am grateful for my health every day I wake up, feel good and am able to do everything I want to do. I eat right and exercise and control my weight, but I never feel entitled to good health. I do my part and God does his and I am grateful because it will not last forever. I always have to laugh when I hear people say “I cannot believe it, he lived a healthy life and one day he dropped dead of a heart attack.” Of course he did; none of us are going to live forever. I am grateful for the friends that I have had for 20, 30, 40, 50 years. I do not feel entitled to have perfect friends. Sometimes they hurt my feelings; sometimes they do things to disappoint me, sometimes we have different opinions on politics, but I also know that if I ever needed them for anything they would be right there for me. And I am grateful. I am grateful for my time here at St. Edith. I know I am not entitled to stay here for the rest of my life. One day I will have to retire. I am just grateful for each day I have here.

There is so much anger and violence in our world today. We can develop an attitude of entitlement that we deserve a better life and get all caught up in the negativity. We can develop an attitude of gratitude and appreciate each day. You will be better able to do what you can to make things better rather than getting all caught up in the negativity.