

PASTOR'S CORNER



And he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him.

The great Catholic journalist and wit, G.K. Chesterton, called thanksgiving the “highest form of thought” – that indeed “gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder.” The other nine lepers were undoubtedly quite happy to find themselves cured, but one of them was also struck with utter wonder at the man who had cured him and so returned in thanksgiving.

Gratitude, real gratitude that goes beyond a polite thank you, always takes us outside of ourselves: gratitude is always ordered towards another. breaks us of that self-centered cycle and invites us to stand in humility and wonder at the gifts we have received and those from whom we have received them.

And that’s why gratitude really should be the very aim of our life: to always be struck in humility and wonder at the gifts we have been given: our families and friends, the work we have, our health, even simply life itself – to also be struck in humility and wonder even at the opportunities, the challenges, the struggles, and the suffering we face that can truly help us to grow. To quote Chesterton again, “there is no sense in not appreciating things; and there is no sense in having more of them if you have less appreciation of them.”

The word “eucharist” means thanksgiving. The Eucharist is our thanksgiving sacrifice. Mass is our opportunity to find our happiness doubled: to fall at his feet in wonder and appreciation for all we have been given that we may respond in humble worship to the Giver of all good gifts.

In Christ, through Mary,

Fr. Dominic David Maichrowicz, OP