

sible and you will be full of life and vigor and like the prophet you will walk courageously to the summit of perfection to which you are called. Do not make the fatal mistake of asking as preparation for communion what can only be its fruit.

Lepers are healed: Spiritual leprosy is venial sin. It does not kill but disfigures the soul. It is the traces of sin and evil habits still living in their consequences; it is concupiscence, that miserable tendency inherent in human nature.

The most sure and powerful antidote for all these evils is the Blessed Eucharist. It makes us avoid venial sin, washes away the effects of sin, purifies heart and senses, quenches inordinate desires, imposes silence on culpable instincts. It is Jesus that curbs passions, overcomes their impetuosity and governs the powers of our soul.

Jesus descends from the mountain when the leper comes to Him and falling on his knees buries his face in the dust as much to hide his unsightly wounds as through humility and implores: "Lord, if Thou wilt Thou canst make Me whole." And Jesus moved with compassion, stretching out His hand touches him and he is cured.

If the Eternal Word remained in the heavens we would not dare approach Him, so He came down from the heavenly mount to the Tabernacle where He waits for us. Let us cast ourselves at His feet, that His blessed hands may touch us. Jesus could heal with a word, a look, but generally He prefers to touch the sick to heal them, in order to show us all the virtue and efficaciousness of His adorable flesh, in order to make His humanity participate in the benefits of the divinity; in order to give an outward expression to His acts. Likewise in the Eucharist He makes use of His sacred body to sanctify our souls. Draw nigh the altar you who are sick, kneel at His Sacred feet and in all humility say with the leper: "Lord, if Thou wilt Thou canst cure me." Behold my miseries, the dangers to which I am exposed, the mist of passions obscuring my soul, the evil tendencies drawing me to perdition. Lord, if Thou wilt!" Jesus does will and touches us with His divine Host. O holy touch! O precious and salutary contact! O efficacious and all-powerful Sacrament! The lepers are cured: let them not