

Daily Homily
3 Week of Lent, Monday
13 March 2023
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Naaman enters into our Lenten retreat time, our Lenten experience. He is an army commander, well respected, highly regarded – especially by his superiors, he is successful. However, he’s also a leper.

Leprosy was the mark of exile and exclusion and quarantine – indefinitely, since there was no cure.

Hopeless is his situation for this bright, talented, well-respected, skillful, and successful army commander.

Until a young girl makes a simple suggestion... and it’s more than a suggestion, the young girl doesn’t waffle on the idea, she doesn’t say “maybe, he will be cured.” She doesn’t give any other idea except that if he does this... he will be cured. This young girl’s confident faith is to be praised and admired.

Naaman, however, is a bit thick headed. He goes. However, he is asked to do something quite ordinary, something that anyone could do, something rather mundane, common. To go and wash in the Jordan River. Big deal. That’s why Naaman is angry. But he eventually does the ordinary and sure enough the young girl was right – he’s cured.

When it comes to the spiritual life sometimes we can be like Naaman, thinking we need to do all sorts of extraordinary things... go on this retreat, go after this program, read these books, do these prayers... sometimes it just comes down to doing the ordinary... listen to what God asks you to do... listen and do it.