

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of Lent “The Challenge of God’s Universal Love”  
Fr. Frank Schuster  
March 16<sup>th</sup> 2020

Good morning to you. As you know, these reflections are meant to be a way I can still reach out to you, hopefully offering an insight or two on the readings for the day. As always, the readings for the day can be found at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) if you don’t have a daily missal handy. You can always press pause and play when you are ready. And remember that you can join me today at 3 PM on Instagram for the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, just follow SaintTeresa\_Woodinville. And for now, the reflection for the day.

My friends, the first reading about Naaman being healed from leprosy is comforting to me this morning. In the times we are living in, a number of us are praying for healing and deliverance from the coronavirus. And, I have seen miraculous healings in the course of my priesthood. However, the miracle of healing always has a deeper purpose than the healing itself, because every person who was healed miraculously eventually made their way to heaven another way. You are not going to find Naaman listed in the telephone book. Miracles always have deeper meaning. They always have a way of leading the community around that person to deeper faith and understanding about God. And this is clearly the case in our Gospel reading. Jesus points out the deeper meaning of the healing of Naaman by pointing out that he was not a Jew but a gentile. Jesus tells his own kinsfolk that the salvation God desires for the world is not just for the Chosen People but extends out to the whole world. This message wasn’t well received. I find this interesting because it feels like it is every country for itself right now. Even here at home, people are filling their carts with years’ worth of food and toilet paper making it really hard for their neighbors to get what they need in the event of a month long lockdown. The readings today come at a good time pointing us to the universal love God has for the human race. I wonder if a good challenge today might be to prayerfully contemplate, how far does my love really extend? How far does my love for God extend to my neighbor? I find this to be a helpful question to contemplate, at least for me. It can be a spiritual reflection that might remind us to not only stay healthy in body, but also in our souls, through Christ our Lord. Amen.