

# MOM *always* said “PLEASE” and “Thank You” were MAGIC words. MAYBE she *was* on to something.

Remember? When you really wanted something, and were caught up in the moment of desire or the thrill of receiving a wonderful, shiny new thing, Mom would always interject: “What do you say?” “What’s the magic word?”

Ever since, if you grew up to be a “nice young man,” you always augmented a request with “please” and expressed gratitude with a “thank you.” Now, after 15 years of a devastating plague, how many times have you used one of these magic words with God? Sure, there’s been a lot of “please,” but does a light at the end of the tunnel for many call out for a “thank you?”

The Gospel of Luke (17:11-19) tells a story about gratitude. One day, Jesus came upon 10 lepers who called out to him to cure them. Jesus told them to go and show themselves to the priest, who according to Old Testament law had to determine if lepers could rejoin society. On the way to see the priest, they found themselves cured. One of them—a Samaritan, and therefore an outcast—returned to thank him. “Were not all 10 made clean?” Jesus asked. “It seems that no one has come back to give praise to God, except this foreigner. Stand up and go on your way,” he said to the man, “Your faith has saved you.”

Was it only a coincidence that 10 percent of those cured, the social outcast among the outcasts, returned to give thanks?

Perhaps combination therapy has given you a new life, which you face with trepidation; after all, it’s hard to begin again. It may be that the new drugs are not for you, and you are still looking for an answer to HIV or AIDS. And maybe you’re still thinking of your beloved friends who have died, asking



God to please hug them for you.

Wherever you are on your pilgrimage through life, we invite you to join us as we celebrate the feast of the Triumph of the Cross on September 14 at 2:30 p.m. with a Mass for those with AIDS or HIV, their families and friends, and in memory of those who have died.

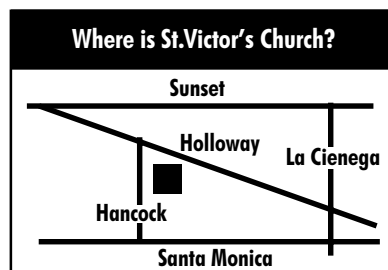
Perhaps the pain and fear you felt as a result of your own HIV infection or as you cared for your sick brothers was intensified by a feeling of rejection from your Church. At St. Victor’s, we can’t

make the past go away; many gay and lesbian

people have suffered at the hands of people who should know better. But we can provide a safe place for the community to heal and grow in the light of unconditional love, to reclaim your membership in the People of God, your birthright by baptism.

Whether you have a “please” or a “thank you” for God, we invite you to offer your prayer at St. Victor’s, where an entire parish community that welcomes you, just as you are, will join with you.

After all, if you’ve experienced the pain of your own cross, isn’t it time to experience your own personal Triumph of the Cross?



*Located in the heart of West Hollywood*

## Rediscover Your Heritage at St. Victor’s

### AIDS Mass September 14

2:30 p.m. Mass for those with HIV and AIDS, their families and friends, and in memory of those who have died in the epidemic, with Anointing of the Sick.

Reception follows.

### Regular Sunday Schedule

Mass at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Reception follows the 10:30 choral Mass. Mass is also offered at 12:15 and 5:15 p.m.

Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30 p.m..

### First Sunday of Every Month

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

1 to 4:30 p.m.

Vespers 4:30 p.m.

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

5 p.m.

### Confessions

Saturdays 4:45 to 5:15 p.m.

and by appointment



## Come home to St. Victor’s.

St. Victor’s Catholic Church ☎ 8634 Holloway Drive ☎ West Hollywood 90069 ☎ 310 652 6477