

Twenty third Sunday in ordinary time

An elderly gentleman had had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor, and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%. The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor and the doctor said, "Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again." The gentleman replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!"

Dear Friends,

We are all cautious and somewhat scared about the pandemic. The virus had different reactions in different places. All over the world, things are changing. Everyday we hear new developments in all parts of life. we all need a healing from God with the challenges we are facing here and around the world.

The readings today help us to reflect the healing touch of God in our needs. In the first reading, The Jews are returning to their homeland after decades of exile in Babylon. Their arrival causes great friction with the other tribes already there, especially the Edomites. Hence, Isaiah reminds Israelites that when God leads his people home, He will work miracles on behalf of those who need it most: blind, deaf, lame, and mute persons. The Lord God's message expresses the promised redemption in terms of health, healing, and well-being for the disabled.

In the second reading, St. James calls us another level of healing. It was a pastoral letter that he wrote people about their lifestyle change. He insists the Christians to have a higher level of charity and responsibility. We need to be socially distance for the disease but no distinction based on any category whether rich or poor, good, or bad. That is another area, the healing needs to take place.

In the gospel, Jesus heals a deaf man who had a speech impediment. This healing fulfills one of Isaiah's signs of God's activity in the human realm. All healing brings good things and cast out evils. Words have power. It heals people. Jesus uses those powerful words to feel the healing love.

During the pandemic, pope Francis blessed the world through Eucharistic adoration. Jesus' presence heals people. His words healed people. We all have the same healing powers. Our words are so powerful. When you see someone and greets and talks to them, they are healed inwardly. your smile and your eyes can bring healing to people. Jesus asks us to continue to do the healing ministry.

Prayers are so powerful. We need to listen to God's word for healing. Let us be open to God's healing process in all of us. God loves us and he wants to heal the world and us. we need to respond to him. He always takes the initiative.

All the sacraments and Masses we have bring healing. In the Gospel today, people brought that man to Jesus. Let us also do that. Bring our won family and friends for healing. We need to be healed in our heart and mind. Let Jesus touch our hearts and body and our brokenness, our disabilities, and our challenges. Let us ask God to open the ears of our hearts to his word and to his love so that we are healed completely.