



Day 39: Healers

Jesus, the Healer

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Luke 4:18-19

This Scripture passage can be seen as a mission statement for the life of Jesus. At the beginning of His public ministry, he stood in the synagogue and proclaimed these words to His disciples, thus inaugurating His mission of healing to the poor, the captives, and the oppressed. I would invite you to use the lens of healing to ponder the whole story of salvation history and Jesus' very own life and mission. Because of the disobedience of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, our relationship with God was fractured, and thus the sons and daughters of God experienced exile and brokenness. The ripple effect hit every part of our humanity, leaving a deep wound in our relationship with God and others. Needless to say, the world and our hearts cried out for healing and restoration. Only God could come and put our broken pieces back together. Thus, the Father, in His goodness, sent His Son into the world to bring this healing. The mission of the Son of God is Healer. Ultimately, by the gift of His Cross and Resurrection, Jesus is the one who brought the full force of divine love and mercy into the world, and in His very Person overflowed the healing power of God into the world. And not only this, but in His holy Catholic Church, He continues to manifest this healing mission in the lives of all the baptized through the sacraments and our own personal vocations.

Mary, A Conduit of Healing

Mary's life and vocation as the Mother of God was the perfect conduit of the healing power of God. She literally gave birth to Jesus the Son of God, who is the divine healer, redeemer, and savior. He is the true medicine for our woundedness and the One who heals our brokenness, especially through the gift of the Eucharist. As Mother, she is so close to His healing presence. What it must have been like for her to share in the healing mission of her Son. In this place, she walked with Him along the way, she pondered things in her heart, and she trusted in all that God was doing, even when Jesus' healing mission took Him to the Cross. Even in the face of darkness and death, Mary believes in her Son's healing mission, that ultimately it will not end with the tragedy of the Cross, but with the victory of the resurrection on Easter morning. Even after Jesus ascended into heaven, Mary remained with the apostles and the early Church and continued to bear witness to the healing mission of her Son.

St. Juan Diego and Us

You are made to be a healer. One of the main thrusts of Our Lady of Guadalupe's message and mission for St. Juan Diego was the call to be a healer. The first miracle associated with the Tilma occurred when it was originally brought to the Hermitage. True to their cultural heritage, this celebratory event included joyously shooting arrows into the sky. One of these arrows, though, struck a person and would have been fatal, but he was brought to the Tilma and was miraculously healed. The practical request of Our Lady was to build a church so as to honor and adore her Son, but the ripple effect of healing goes far beyond what anyone could ever imagine. If true healing is reconciliation and restoration with God, then the gift of baptism is at the heart of healing. In an amazing way, the miraculous story of Our Lady, Juan Diego, and the Tilma was a catalyst for nine million baptisms of the native people. Bishop Zumarraga gave witness to the lasting effects of the Guadalupe Event. 17 years after the apparitions and shortly before his death, the bishop wrote to Charles V telling him, "And it is true, that there were 40 days, during which, with the help of religious, I commenced to confirm the Indians of this city...and 400,000 souls passed to receive the oil and were confirmed...to which [effort] they attribute my death, and I hold it as life and with such joy I exit it." (Letter to Emperor Charles V, May 30, 1548). Needless to say, this is an incredible manifestation of God's healing power. It is good for us to remember that little Juan Diego was God's chosen instrument to usher in this healing. Brother, in your own way, in your own circles, will you allow God to use you as an instrument of healing? Do you believe in the power of your healing mission? To be sure, your own closeness to God in daily prayer will be the power source for this mission. In union with Jesus, you too are called to live in the anointing of the Holy Spirit, to be an instrument of healing for your family, friends, and coworkers. This is the profound truth of your mission. Receive it!

Prayer

O Jesus, we adore You, we love You, and we thank You for the gift of Your presence. You are the beloved Son of the Father, a perfect manifestation of His healing power in the world. We need healing and long to be Your instruments of healing. We ask You now to hear this prayer.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of God and Mother of us, draw us close to your heart. You called St. Juan Diego to be your instrument of healing for so many people. Come and reveal to us our healing mission. Please come and fill us with your love.

Amen.

After reading today's reflection, [pray the Litany of Restoration of Sonship](#).

This reflection is an excerpt from the book *Sons in the Son* written by Fr. Innocent Montgomery, CFR, and Fr. Angelus Montgomery, CFR, and produced by the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council. This reflection is to be used for private devotional use only. For more information, please visit kofc.org/sons.