

Homily for Tuesday, March 24, 2020
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In the Gospel, we heard Jesus say to a man who couldn't walk: "Do you want to be well?" The man, who spent a lot of time at the well just lying there, responded that no one was ever there to put him in the healing pool. So, Jesus sent His Holy Spirit (the true Healing Waters) to the man- and he was healed.

Each of us is this man who is unable to walk. Right now, most of us of us literally cannot go to the places we want to be such as our work, school, the gym, the store, or cafe. We cannot go places, and even worse, many of us have lived our whole lives in the Church and we still find ourselves spiritually lame and this is not helpful for our current situation. We might feel alone and purposeless, exhausted with having our whole family around us all of the time, or plain and simply downtrodden with fear. Jesus is looking at us and asking us if we want to be well. Let's say "Yes!" and instead of seeing this moment as a setback let's see it as an opportune time of refocusing our lives on Jesus Christ to begin again living in His Presence and Power.

How about we start with setting a time every day for the next month to go to our bedroom and ask Jesus to give us more of the Holy Spirit. We can ask Jesus to stir up His Holy Spirit in us like a warm healing pool- or even like a hurricane! I would encourage us after a time of resting in God to then read at least one paragraph per day from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which can be found by googling: "Catechism of the Catholic Church Vatican.va." There are four pillars or sections that we can read from in order to be renewed in Christ. The pillars are: Faith, Sacraments, Morality, and Prayer. Maybe it would be best for us to start by reading the section on prayer.

Jesus wants us to be healed. Let's want it for ourselves as well! Let's pray and read! From this time to focus on prayer and holy reading a great zeal will well up within us for powerful outreach to others, which is so needed. Come, Holy Spirit- we want to be well!

Gospel of John 5:1-16

There was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem at the Sheep Gate a pool called in Hebrew Bethesda, with five porticoes. In these lay a large number of ill, blind, lame, and crippled. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been ill for a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be well?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; while I am on my way, someone else gets down there before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your mat, and walk." Immediately the man became well, took up his mat, and walked.

Now that day was a sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to carry your mat." He answered them, "The man who made me well told me, 'Take up your mat and walk.'" They asked him, "Who is the man who told you, 'Take it up and walk'?" The man who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had slipped away, since there was a crowd there. After this Jesus found him in the temple area and said to him, "Look, you are well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse may happen to you." The man went and told the Jews that Jesus was the one who had made him well. Therefore, the Jews began to persecute Jesus because he did this on a sabbath.