

Homily
Friday of the 1st Week in OT
January 13, 2023

Which is more important – to heal our sin or heal our physical ailments? Our damaged soul or our damaged body? In today's Gospel, we are confronted with Christ's exhibition of the importance of healing our soul, even though it appeared to be a crime to the unknowing and arrogant. The scribes accuse Jesus of blasphemy. Only God can forgive sin. And yet, Jesus also heals the paralytic, "Rise, pick up your mat and walk." Jesus demonstrates the Greatest Commandment, "Love God; love our neighbor."

So, which is more important? Obviously, the healing of the soul; this is what keeps us on the path to eternal life. Yet, with so much physical pain in the world, and with our call to love one another, we can see the importance of worldly healing.

What would Christ do if He were in the world today? Imagine Jesus among us? Would He heal the body and the soul as He did with the paralytic?

He IS here!

He is here sacramentally in the Eucharist, made present on this altar and residing in the Tabernacle. And He is present in each and every one of us. Right here, right now!

He is more present to us in the world today than even when He walked the earth 2000 years ago. We are Christ in the world. We are Christ walking and healing and praying and helping. We, the Body of Christ, by our Baptism, by our reception of the Most Holy Eucharist, by the Greatest Commandment, are Christ for one another.

Jesus, as the Son of Man, has authority to forgive sins on earth. We, through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, have the ability to have our sins forgiven.

Jesus, as the Lamb of God, has offered Himself as the Ultimate Sacrifice. We, through the Sacrament of the Eucharist, are strengthened to carry out our calling to be Christ in the world.

Jesus, as the Divine Physician, has the power to heal us, body and soul. We, made in the image and likeness of God, have the ability, through doctors, first responders, priests and bishops, have been granted the gifts and graces to heal, body and soul, if only we have the faith, determination and love to be Christ in the world.

Each and every one of us is called to be Christ in the world. Each of us has been granted with particular gifts to reflect God's Love in the world.

The only question is, "Do we have faith?" Will we respond like the paralytic, broken in body and soul, and rise, pick up our mats and walk? Will we, broken, seek healing, and the walk as Christ in the world?