

13TH SUNDAY IN OT—Year B—M06-D27-Y2021

01. The difference between how Jesus heals, and how the Saints healed—is that the Saints were simply instruments of God’s healing touch—whereas Jesus Himself IS God’s healing touch. In other words, the power of healing comes from Jesus Himself — for Jesus, being God, is the source of ALL healing.
02. So, when Jesus went about performing various miracles and healings—He Himself was the source of the miracles and healings He was performing. And so, the message for us today is to draw closer to Jesus because He is the source of ALL the miracles and the healings we seek in life.
03. This is why I often tell people not to focus so much on the miracle or the healing that they are praying for — but rather to focus on drawing closer and closer to Jesus—THE very SOURCE of the healing and miracle that they are praying for.
04. Because just as our salvation is a Person—the Person of Jesus Christ—so too OUR HEALING is a Person—the Person of Jesus Christ—Who is the very incarnation of God’s healing Touch.
05. And drawing closer to Jesus doesn’t necessarily mean more external demonstrations of piety, as good as those are. Drawing closer to Jesus is about entering into a close and intimate friendship with Him — about opening our Hearts to Him, and allowing Him to touch us, and to live within us.
06. And drawing closer to Jesus is about recognizing that Jesus is the centre of our universe—the reason for our existence—the source of our life, and the source of ALL the good IN our life—THE REAL GOOD.
07. And drawing closer to Jesus is about realizing that our friendship with Him is the most important, most rewarding relationship we’re ever going to have in this life — because Jesus is the very best friend we have—and the very best friend we’re EVER GOING to have — Who wants the very best for us EVEN MORE than we want it for ourselves.

08. And drawing closer to Jesus is about believing and knowing that Jesus Himself is our ULTIMATE GOOD — and that truly possessing Him, and allowing Him to truly possess US, and to be the centre of OUR world—is an even greater good than the healing and the miracle we are seeking from Him. PAUSE
09. There are a few things to keep in mind whenever we pray for healing—things that will help us form the right disposition, the right attitude, whenever we seek healing from the Lord.
10. FIRST, God wants our healing FAR more than we want it for ourselves. I'll repeat—God wants our healing FAR MORE than we want it for ourselves. He even wants the healing of our loved ones FAR MORE than WE want it for them. Sometimes it's hard to see this—but it's the absolute truth.
11. So, for this reason, no matter what happens when we pray for healing—the bottom line is that we will ALL BE HEALED — at some point, we will all be healed of every affliction of mind, body, soul, and heart—and restored to perfect health.
12. WHY: because this is the irrevocable Will of God—Who desires that all His children be perfectly whole and live life to the fullest.
13. And so, the Lord wants to heal ALL OF US—not just some of us, but all of us — AND not just some of our afflictions, but ALL OF OUR AFFLICTIONS. And again, ALL OF US will eventually be healed of every affliction—simply because this is the intense desire of God—Who, AGAIN, wants our healing FAR MORE than we want it for ourselves.
14. SECOND, healing and faith are intimately connected—they are, in some sense, two sides of the same coin. And we see this clearly throughout the Scriptures, including today's Gospel. In fact, throughout the Gospels, whenever Jesus performed a miraculous healing—He ALMOST always responded with these words: *Your faith has made you well*. Notice He doesn't say: *your piety has made you well*—or that *your ritualistic devotions have made you well*—but that *your faith has made you well*.

15. Because this faith Jesus is talking about is NOT FAITH IN OUR OWN PIETY OR RIGHTEOUSNESS, but in the Lord Himself — faith that He not only has the POWER to heal us—but that He has THE DESIRE to heal us AS WELL — faith that His plans for us are plans for peace, not disaster reserving a future full of hope for us. And if we lack this kind of faith—we need to ask for it, to pray for it, and to want it.
16. THIRD, the Lord heals us in many different ways—and SO, He wants us to avail ourselves of ALL THE WAYS He has provided for our healing—which includes modern medicine as well as the skills of doctors, nurses, and surgeons.
17. Because although (ultimately) ALL HEALING comes from God—it doesn't mean that we SHOULDN'T avail ourselves of all the modern resources He has provided for our healing — because LIKE THE SAINTS, doctors and medicine can ALSO BE instruments of God's healing touch.
18. But even when making use of doctors and medicine, we still need to recognize that ULTIMATELY—all healing is the work of God.
19. FOURTH, in the end, all healing is a mystery — because although God has the power and the desire to heal us — the MEANS by which He chooses to heal us—and the TIMETABLE by which He chooses to heal us—is TOTALLY in His Hands. And so, we have to make peace with the fact that SOMETIMES the healing we seek won't take place until we are in Heaven—where our ultimate healing will be fully and completely realized.
20. FIFTH, the greatest affliction, the greatest wound we need to be healed of is sin—which is SOMETIMES WHY the Lord allows us to suffer PHYSICAL afflictions because they can bring about SPIRITUAL healing. And so, first and foremost, this IS the healing we should seek above ALL OTHERS. Because, OFTEN, serious, unrepented sin will not only affect our souls—but our bodies as well.
21. In other words, physical healing and spiritual healing, are closely connected —and, in fact, the physical healings Jesus performed when

He walked the earth were usually signs of a greater, more spiritual healing that GOD wants for His People.

22. Therefore, if we're holding onto deep seeded resentments and bitterness—if we have a complacent attitude toward serious sin in our life—OR, if we're living in a state of mortal sin—we need to address this first and foremost when praying for healing — because serious sin will not only wound our souls—it can impede our physical healing as well — which means that the Sacrament of Confession is a great source of healing—and is sometimes needed when seeking health and wholeness. (PAUSE)
23. To demonstrate just how true this is, a little over a year and a half ago, I received an email from a woman whose mother started suffering terrible headaches after undergoing eye surgery. At first the mother didn't think anything of it—but then the headaches started lingering and getting worse. She then decided to consult the eye doctor who had performed the surgery who told her that there was no medical evidence linking her headaches to the eye surgery.
24. The headaches eventually got SO BAD, this woman went to the hospital to get checked out—however, they TOO didn't find anything medically wrong and recommended pain medications—but, unfortunately, none of them seemed to work.
25. The pain eventually started expanding into her neck area—and got bad enough that this woman had to take some time off work. She then decided to go BACK to the hospital—but again, they found nothing medically wrong with her.
26. After several weeks of trying everything to stop these headaches—the daughter of this woman started to think that maybe the headaches have something to do with the fact that her mother was receiving Communion without having gone to Confession in years.
27. The daughter then recommended that her mother go to Confession. The mother refused at first—but having suffered with

this pain for several weeks, she later had a change of heart and decided to go.

28. After the Confession—the woman did her penance—and the next day ALL HER PAIN WAS COMPLETELY GONE — not just some of the pain—ALL THE PAIN. In the words of her daughter who emailed me: *“The pain wasn’t reduced. It wasn’t just better. The pain was gone.”* In fact, the mother mentioned that it was the first time in all those weeks that she had slept without any pain.
29. I thanked the daughter of this woman for sharing this inspiring story with me, and then asked her permission to share it—because it’s the kind of story people who are reluctant to go Confession need to hear. And it’s an important story to share because it proves the connection between spiritual healing and physical healing—and how unconfessed, unrepented sin is often at the root of all sorts of physical illness.
30. I also think it’s an important story to share because it ALSO shows the need for REGULAR Confession — meaning that because of the intimate connection between the soul and the body, frequent Confession is not only medicine for the soul, but also for the body. (PAUSE)
31. FINALLY, as mentioned earlier, we should always strive to seek the HEALER HIMSELF, first and foremost, ABOVE the healing. Because the Lord Himself is everything we could ever possibly want—and everything we could ever possibly need — and the extent to which we are fully immersed in Him, is the extent to which we will have ALL our hearts desire—INCLUDING THE HEALING WE ARE SEEKING.
32. And when we truly seek Jesus Himself, MORE SO than the healing—and when we draw closer to Christ, so close that we can, in a sense, touch Him like the woman in today’s Gospel—remarkable things will happen for us and for those we love.
33. This is why the Eucharist is the greatest SOURCE of healing—because the Eucharist is the Lord Himself — and because in the

Eucharist we have the FULLNESS of Christ's Divinity as well as the fullness of His Humanity.

34. In other words, the Eucharist is not a different Jesus, or a part of Jesus, or merely a symbol of Jesus — the Eucharist IS Jesus—the VERY same Jesus Who walked among us healing all those who touched Him.
35. The woman in today's Gospel was only able to touch the fringe of His cloak—but in the Eucharist, we have FAR GREATER CONTACT with Our Lord — for in the Eucharist we can touch, absorb, and penetrate Jesus' Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity — and in the Eucharist we are fully immersed in Him Who is the Source of all our healing, and all our hearts desires.
36. And so, on this, the 13TH Sunday in Ordinary Time, let us ask God for that same expectant faith the woman in today's Gospel had, who said: *"If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well"*— remembering, once again, that the Lord wants our healing INFINITELY MORE than we want it for ourselves. AMEN.