



Healing and Gratitude

Today's Gospel is one of the readings that may be chosen for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. For years, I have been struck by the healing of Peter's mother-in-law, a Biblical character about whom we know very little. We do know that she was ill and experienced the healing touch of Jesus. It is true that many people were healed by Jesus during His public ministry. In this situation, we are told that "the fever left her and she waited on them." Some people in the Gospel stories who are healed by the Lord show their gratitude by praising God. Others show their gratitude by following Jesus. Still others have a combination of both. Peter's mother-in-law shows her gratitude by living a life of service.

This Gospel passage challenges us to ask how we respond to the Lord when He blesses us in some way. Are we grateful? Do we tell the Lord we are grateful for what He has done for us? How has the way we live our lives changed after we acknowledge the healing or gift received from the Lord? One of the best ways we can show our gratitude is by living a life of service. Volunteering at a hospital or for some parish function, fasting one day a week for some good intention for the world, giving of our time at a homeless shelter (e.g. PADS), food pantry (e.g. Glen Ellyn Food Pantry) or soup kitchen are just some of the many ways we can live out in real practical ways our acknowledgment and expression of gratitude for what the Lord has done for us.

Even though we do not know much else about Peter's mother-in-law, we can truly be grateful that this event was recorded in the Gospel. It is indeed a great reminder of just how good the Lord is and how we can show our gratitude in a way most pleasing to the Lord. This woman of faith continues to serve as a reminder and example of God's love and care for us and how we can show our love for Him.

Father David

Thank You Marie Kohler!

For many years, if you entered the Ministry Center on a Monday, most likely you would have been greeted by Marie Kohler, one of our parishioners, who volunteered as one of the parish office workers. Marie has decided to "retire" from her position but will be available to help us with special projects (stuffing envelopes, labeling, special mailings, etc.) On behalf of the parish family, I thank Marie for her dedicated service. God bless you always, Marie!

Father David

