

Chris Stein Reflection

February 14, 2021

I remember the night of November 30, 2018 - our inter-seminary basketball game of Borromeo vs. Saint Mary. I loved playing in the game each year and it was my first year on Saint Mary's and I was especially pumped up. As a seminary we had just won a soccer tournament in Columbus in which I had scored five goals and had a few assists. In the Fall of 2017 I had run my first marathon in Columbus, having trained for four months. I was probably in the best shape of my life at this time.

So the game began as usual - early turnovers, sloppy play, missed shots, and the score was around 3-2 Borromeo five minutes into the game. I remember thinking "all right enough, I know I can go coast to coast for a lay-up and get fouled." So I got a rebound and seeing the court was clear, took off. Almost eight-five later, going up for the lay-up my shoulder gets hit. Next thing I know I am in the bleachers with my knee bent in half and stuck under me, requiring the help of others to straighten

the knee and get me on crutches. An emergency trip and an MRI days later brought the news: a torn ACL, MCL, and Meniscus.

Brothers and sisters, all of us need healing. Each of us are imperfect and have an area that needs growth. Even the great saints and holy men and women of our faith, people like Saint Augustine, Saint Paul, or Blessed Margaret of Castello and Servant of God Chiara Corbella Petrillo needed healing. The healing that we need can be in a variety of ways, even things we are not aware of: sickness and disease, mental illness, addiction, anger, trauma, greed.

The Good News: Christ wills our healing! As Jesus said to the leper: "I do will it. Be made clean." So does He will our healing.

BUT:

The healing that Christ gives might not always be what we thought was needed. When praying for healing, we must be ready for God to act unexpectedly - to surprise us.

There is a tension that exists:

Christians believe that God leaves no authentic prayer unanswered. But we also know, perhaps from personal experience, that prayers for healing frequently do not bring about our request.

How to solve this apparent tension? It takes humility, trust, and discernment. There has to be a recognition that God knows the needs that exist, knows where the greatest healing is needed, and knows us more than we know ourselves.

Perhaps we pray for recovery from sickness but it remains nonetheless. Where was the healing? Well, and it can be a challenge to accept this, we look inside and we see if God has healed us in some way. Maybe a greater sense of peace or knowing the love of God.

Or maybe someone's prayer is for healing from addiction and they are experiencing setbacks and challenges on the road. Where is the healing? Look inside - might they notice that

despite the suffering they now lean on God, reach out and have greater relationships with family and friends, learned to be humble and trust in God's timing? That is something, that is healing. It is a step in the right direction

Going back to my torn ACL - I most definitely did not want to get injured. My knee is still not yet one hundred percent and after multiple surgeries I doubt it will be. But I have experienced healing - but differently from the request: becoming less self-centered, development of deeper relationships with family and friends, learned about my great love for books and the academic life, learned what it means to give up even the things I enjoy for God.

So yes, God always heals - but it is in His way, the way that will lead to the greatest healing, and bring about the greatest good that draws you closer to Him.

Three days from Lent begins and the Church calls us to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Make this a time to ask for and

experience healing by implementing the Lenten practices around the need for healing.

Finally, we all need to experience healing from our sin, great and small. Healing from sin that draws away from God, divides hearts, the evil that exists within pulling us away from love.

And the Good News is that God already has provided the healing: the Crucifixion. God's death on the Cross has opened the way to healing and salvation. Enter into the mystery of Jesus ultimate sacrifice which He made for our healing. One great way to receive healing: the sacrament of Confession. This Lent - go to confession. No matter what you have done, or how long it has been since your last confession, make it a priority to go and pour out your soul. Let God heal you in that sacrament of healing.

This Lent: pray for healing, allow God to heal you, and make you whole again, cleanse you from all sin. Be ready to expect the unexpected. God wants to and will heal you. And when Easter

arrives in April - you will experience the Rising of the One Son -
Jesus Christ - who makes all things new!