Reflection from Deacon Ross Beaudoin

The world is almost two years into a pandemic. Natural disasters and economic stress have increased at the same time. Social and political conflicts seem relentless. What's a person to do?

Each of us is affected by the global, national and local realities in different ways. In addition, our own personal health and well being may be impacted by sickness or stress. Sometimes we don't know what to expect next.

With all of this going on, at the present moment there may not be many needs more important than physical or spiritual healing. Healing from sickness, yes. And also healing from worry, stress and the conflicts that engulf us these days.

Jesus is totally aware of what needs healing in us. (Sometimes we are not as aware ourselves....) In today's gospel passage Bartimaeus, a blind man, calls out, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me." Jesus asks, "What do you want me to do for you?" Bartimaeus replies: "Master, I want to see." Jesus responds: "Go your way, your faith has saved you." And immediately the man received his sight!

Jesus walks the streets of our lives today. We can call out to Him, "Have pity on me...."

In the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick this Sunday we encounter Jesus. With the faith shown by Bartimaeus we can say, "I want to be healed." Jesus knows what in us needs healing; our faith will save us.

It takes an initial act of faith to come and present ourselves for healing, but we are not alone. The blind man was not alone, he was accompanied by others. As a community we present ourselves and uphold each other in faith.

And, when we are healed, we go on together with Bartimaeus and "follow [Jesus] on the way" to calvary and ultimately resurrection.

~ Peace,

Deacon Ross