

PASTOR'S COLUMN—OCTOBER 13, 2014

Dear Parishioners:

Jesus is noted for healing people of many different physical ailments: crippledness, blindness, deafness and muteness. And physical health is a blessed gift from God but Jesus does a far more profound healing on the heart-felt, inner level of people. Its origin is Jesus' deep communion with His Father in all-night prayer on a mountain. Out of this intimate prayer time, Jesus calls his first apostles to follow him into deep intimacy with God the Father's Will. Judas who betrays Jesus, chooses not to be open to Jesus' call to follow him into deep intimacy and the end result is that Judas kills himself. Physically, Judas was healthy, but his heart/inner spirit was not reconciled. Judas had an inner self-conflict that blocked his openness to heart-felt healing in the intimacy of Christ; it killed him.

We like to be physically healthy but eventually our physical condition will die. Intimacy with Jesus is not encumbered by our physical situation. We can be physically ill or dying and still be heart-felt healthy because of inner reconciliation. People in the Gospel wanted to touch Jesus so as to be healed of their physical maladies. But although Jesus' power of physical healing was drawn out by people's touch, the most powerful healing touch of all from Jesus was how his intimate oneness with His Father touched people with heart-felt reconciliation.

When we experience heart-felt intimacy with Jesus, we can face any physical health issues with courage and peace. So we are wise to spend some nights in prayerful intimacy with Our Creator Father through Jesus. The heart-felt healing that goes on in God's intimacy with us is salvation in our midst, the healing of our hearts with the "elixir" of reconciliation.

In Christ's heart-felt intimacy,

Fr. Terry