

Do you think of Jesus as your healer? Jesus is our Lord and Savior. Did you know the Greek word for Savior can also be translated, Healer? So Jesus is our Lord, Savior, and Healer.

In the First Reading, the prophet Isaiah predicts that when the Savior comes, he will make the blind see, the deaf hear, the mute speak, and the lame walk and leap.

In the Gospel, we hear that because of the ministry Jesus, quote, “the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.”

I said, “the ministry of Jesus”. This ministry wasn’t just Jesus himself, but also his apostles. In the chapter right before this one, Jesus sends out his 12 apostles to heal, saying, “As you go, make this proclamation: ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons.”

Jesus, through his disciples, is still healing people today, physically, spiritually, emotionally. Hearing stories of these healings reminds us that He is with us, and that he wants to heal each of us in some way, physically, spiritually, emotionally. All physical healings in this life are a sign pointing to the total healing of the body at the end of time, when Jesus will raise up our mortal bodies, and conform them to the pattern of His glorified, resurrected Body.

Saturday Dec. 10, our Youth group and friends made a pilgrimage to the Solanus Casey Center in Detroit. We took a tour and learned about some of the ways God used Solanus to heal people. The tour began with the host telling us that the center was not a shrine to Solanus, because Solanus made it clear all healing came from God, not from him.

Bernard Casey was born in Wisconsin in 1870. Inspired in part by seeing the evil in this world, he became convinced God wanted him to become a priest. Eventually, after much prayer, he heard Our Lady tell him three words, “go to Detroit.” He went and knocked on the door of Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit, and became a postulant, and three years later was ordained a priest.

He was sent to serve in New York, and later transferred back to Detroit, where he was assigned to be their doorkeeper. He remained doorkeeper for 21 years, receiving visitors who came to him with all sorts of problems and sufferings.

Eventually, his reputation spread. Thousands began visiting the monastery to talk to Fr. Solanus, hoping to receive his kindness, wisdom, and maybe an answered prayer for a miracle! Over his lifetime, thousands of miracles were reported.

It wasn’t simply his prayers that won favors from God. It was the infinite healing power of

the Mass. He invented an organization called the Seraphic Mass Association, and enrolled people in it. This way, the Capuchins would offer Masses for these prayer intentions. So many favors and miracles were reported that Solanus' superiors asked him to keep a record. He eventually filled many journals with over 6000 answered prayers. You might consider having a Mass offered for the person you are praying for, by calling the office, or by calling the Solanus Casey Center to have them enrolled in the Seraphic Mass Association!

Solanus asked people to participate in their own healing. He would listen to people's stories and then instruct them to, "thank God ahead of time" for future favors. Have you ever done that? Have you ever followed a request by thanking God ahead of time for whatever He will do, trusting that His way is the best for our eternal benefit?

Solanus would often first tell people, "Have faith! Trust in God!", and next, he would instruct them to SHOW their faith with some concrete action. For example, to give something to the poor, or do some spiritual reading.

But to mention a few of the physical healings: A woman with pneumonia was given three days to live, and was miraculously healed. A boy with stiffened limbs from polio was healed. There were reports of healings from blindness, gangrene, memory loss, cancer, deafness, heart disease, and other illnesses.

There were many other kinds of healings, not only physical. Some people were healed from addiction, depression, suicidal thoughts. There were "conversions". For example, once a Communist came in and told Solanus he hated priests and wanted to kill him. "That's something that should be discussed," Solanus replied. After a few minutes, the man was converted, and he asked God for forgiveness.

In one article, it says Solanus could often, quote, "read hearts and tell people what would happen to them or their loved ones. Almost casually, he would say things like "Yes, you will be a nun" or "You haven't been praying" or "Don't worry; he'll be better by morning." One woman, distraught that her father had left the Church, approached Solanus at a parish picnic. He listened while eating his hot dog with mustard and sauerkraut, and predicted — correctly — that her father would return to the faith. To a man whose wife was facing an operation, Solanus replied that she wouldn't need it and would be back home soon; then, always the baseball fan, he said, "Now, tell me how the Detroit Tigers are doing." [1]

He died at age eighty-six. His last words were, "I give my soul to Jesus Christ."

Solanus is still praying for healing today from heaven. Br. Richard Merling, director of the Solanus Casey Guild in Detroit, said that reports of prayers answered by Fr. Solanus continue to pour into the office "We have at least eight drawers filled with petitions or favors received. Many beautiful healings really do take place. He continues to touch

people.”

Jesus is our Lord, Savior, and Healer. Today, what kind of healing do you want from him, for yourself, and for someone else? Physical healing? Emotional healing from past trauma? Spiritual healing from fear and anxiety? As we receive our Healer in Holy Communion, He invites each of us to ask for healing for ourselves in some way, or for someone else. And Fr. Solanus encourages us to “thank God ahead of time” for whatever He will do.

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[1] <https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/faith-and-character/faith-and-character/the-surprising-case-of-solanus-casey.html>