

Over and over again Jesus shows a desire to respond with healing. That morning in the synagogue he had healed a man with a withered hand. Then he came to Andrew and Simon's home and healed Simon's mother-in-law. Basically everywhere he went Jesus encountered people who wanted to be healed.

I don't think it's any different today. It's often what people ask us to pray for, and what's written in the Book of Intentions. People are sick and people are tired. They're struggling to overcome bad habits and addictions. They resonate with the situation of Job – they sometimes find themselves laid low, depressed, or even unable to function. They're not able to do what they know needs to be done but they can't find the energy to do it

***imaginative prayer:***

*Imagine yourself in a safe or comfortable place ... sitting or lying down*

*what is it that's affecting you? what burdens you?  
what needs God's mercy? what needs Jesus' healing?*

*Jesus enters what do you see? what does he look like? how does he approach you?  
When Jesus looks at you, what is his gaze like? how do you respond to his look?*

*Then he reaches out his hand to touch you; what does it feel like?  
Then Jesus grasps you by the hand and helps you up.*

*what is your response to him? And his response to you? .....*

Jesus didn't settle down and open a clinic in Capernaum. He came for more than that -- other towns need to hear the Good News, and that is why I came, he tells his followers.

Healing is meant to free us so we can do what God needs us to do. In Capernaum it was Mom preparing a meal for her guests, and relieving Simon and Andrew's worries so they could be his disciples. So one side of the coin is that we all need mercy and healing, and it's God's desire and joy to give that to us.

The other side is that we are called to share this Good News with others. How else will they hear it? Not in here -- they have not come yet. They have to hear it from us -- their family, their friends, their neighbors, the people they work with. We must be the signs and the instruments of that Good News. We COME to hear God's Word of mercy and healing; we COME to the altar to feed and strengthened with the risen life of Christ; then we LEAVE to tell others about the Good News of God's gifts.

I encourage you to tell one other person what happened in your prayer; don't keep it to yourself. Make it a Super Sunday not because of a football game, but by proclaiming the Good News of what God has done for you.