

JULY 7 2025 FATHER PETER TURRONE

As a priest one of the biggest requests for prayer that I receive, and that many of us receive, are always related to healings. When you look at the Mass intentions, as you can see as the Daily TV Mass community, we have requests for healings and conversions.

Oftentimes, people are burdened by many different types of illnesses, often physical ones, and there's this deep desire to experience God's healing. It's good that we pray for them. In fact, we know Jesus wants us to pray and ask for these healings of mind, body, and soul.

We can see in the Gospel the compassion of Jesus towards two different people — one young and one older, both in need of his mercy. One of them is deceased, whom he brings back to life; the other is an older woman who has been pretty much abandoned and is in desperate need of his physical healing.

It's because of the faith of the father and then of this woman that Jesus responds. We see Jesus saying to her, "It is your faith that saved you."

So what happens? What do we do in a situation like this? We pray. I know many good people who pray with profound faith, but at times they don't receive the physical healing they're looking for.

It's a hard one. It's a mystery. I have met members of my own family who did not receive that physical healing we prayed for. In fact, if you go to Lourdes, where we were a few years ago, you can see that millions of people go there, to this unexpected place where God's mother was sent, in a grotto that was not considered holy when she first appeared.

People go, millions asking God for grace, asking for physical healings. What I do know from experience, from what the saints tell us, and from

what Scripture tells us — as was sung in the Psalm — is to have trust in God.

We are called to ask in faith and to abandon ourselves, trusting that God will give us what is best for us.

I remember, years ago when I was still a seminarian, I met this woman who had gone to Lourdes hoping for a miracle, a physical healing. She didn't receive it, but someone else did. While she was on the plane returning, she realized, "Even though I did not receive what I had gone there asking for from the Blessed Mother, I do know that I'm experiencing and looking at this experience of sickness in a very different way."

There was a deep sense of peace. By going on this pilgrimage, being immersed in the water, she received the grace to say, "I haven't received this, but I accept it. I'm able to look at it and trust in God that he will draw good from this tragedy," from her experience and those of her family members.

You can see that healing can take place in many different ways.

In the first reading, we hear that Jacob is in a place where God appears to him. He has this great, profound experience and marks it with a stone, which he sets up for a pillar, which shall be God's house.

When you go to Lourdes, and to many places, these shrines around the world where God was present, or his saints, or the Blessed Mother whom he sends to these places, they often build a shrine to remember where God was present.

One of the things I find fascinating — you can see this also at St. Joseph's Oratory and at St. Anne's, both in Quebec — when you go

there, you can see votive offerings. These offerings are quite impressive. At times they're simple drawings; at other times they're more elaborate.

People leave something in thanksgiving, in recognition for the fact that they have encountered God, that a grace has been given to them. Some of these are physical healings.

There was one that I mentioned last year, of a nun who received a remarkable healing. My own spiritual father had gone there accompanying a group on pilgrimage. There was a young boy who was autistic and non-verbal. When he was placed into the waters, he started screaming, "Get me out of here, it's freezing cold!" Everyone was stunned because he had never said a word before.

As he came out of the water, they watched him start to open up. My spiritual father accompanied the family for a while, and now the boy is on a baseball team and received this physical healing. It is a beautiful gift.

So, why does God give it to some and not others? We do not know. But we know that we're called to trust. We know that experience doesn't have to keep us in a place of despair.

What do we do with this situation? We pray. We ask God for the grace of healing. We ask Jesus, especially in the Mass and in the prayer of the Rosary, this beautiful prayer, and we bring all our intentions.

We say, "Lord, these are the things we ask for. You are all wise, you are outside of time and space. You see what we need; we cannot see everything. We can only see the present. We trust that all good will come from this experience.

"Even if we cannot receive the physical healing that we desperately want, we trust that you will give us the ultimate healing in this life,

which is regaining your presence. That we'll have courage and peace to bear our cross, with the full hope and faith that one day, one day, we will be with you."

And we have every good reason because it is founded on the death and resurrection of Jesus that we'll be with the Lord in the life to come.

It is in that place where he will wipe away every tear, and we'll be there with Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes, and all the saints worshipping him in the life to come.

So I encourage you to continue to pray, but also to put your trust in God. We continue not to give up. In this year, this Jubilee of Hope, we continue to do what we can, trusting that the Lord will draw good from every experience.