

# COMPASSIONATE COMPANIONS

St Peregrine Ministry News  
Vol 2 No 1, Winter 2023



## DO YOU BELIEVE I CAN HEAL YOU?

“Do you want to be healed?” When Jesus asks persons in the gospel this question, the response of any sick or hurting person seems obvious, “Yes, of course, I want to be healed!” That’s certainly what I said when I was treated for cancer two years ago. Wouldn’t you also answer in the affirmative? However, Jesus asks another question, “Do you believe that I can heal you?” This question takes the focus off our hurts and desires, and invites us to ponder our faith and trust in God. Jesus did not heal people as an end in itself, but as a sign of powerful divine love, to reconcile all persons and creatures into wholeness and unity, and to lead the healed person into deeper faith and compassion. He tells paralyzed and blind persons, “I will not only heal your body, but will also forgive your sins and return you to the family and community from which you’ve been separated!”



Jesus could be called, in today’s terms, a holistic healer, who not only touched and healed bodies, but also awakened hearts, gave people back a sense of purpose, freed them from fear, discouragement or hopelessness, and brought isolated, marginalized, forgotten, or shamed persons back into the community. Every sign of healing by Jesus offered a more joyful, full and secure life to people whose lives were in some way constricted, saddened or threatened. The need for healing, then, becomes the context for a deeper encounter with life, with love, with God, and encourages growth in our compassion for others who suffer. Of ten healed lepers, only one really “got it,” and came back to thank and to follow Jesus, rather than simply return to previous “normal life.” It can be a big step forward in our faith when we come to realize that, even if our bodies are not ‘cured’ in the way we desire, we may experience other forms of healing which we may not have given much thought to, until we, or someone we love, becomes seriously ill.

For example, a friend of mine with advanced metastatic cancer found incredible healing in his being reconciled with estranged friends shortly

### St Peregrine Ministry Mission Statement

Inspired by Mary at the foot of the Cross, and by our brother friar St. Peregrine, OSM, patron saint of those living with cancer, we Servites accompany and support persons who suffer from serious illness, especially cancer, along with their loved ones and caregivers. We offer our faith, compassion and prayerful intercession, that they may experience hope, peace and the healing presence of God in their lives.

before he died. A woman who had struggled with self-acceptance, and had spent so much of her life comparing herself to others, when faced with diminishment of her human capabilities, finally accepted the truth that she was good, good enough, and loved, just as God created her. Whether in hospitals, care facilities or at home, persons sometimes experience

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# “Praise God”

Dear Friends of St. Peregrine, OSM,

Glory and Praise to our God for His healing strength in all of our lives. As we hear in Psalm 91, “Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them, and show them my salvation.”

Many pilgrims say to me, “Fr. Chris, the healing Masses at Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica are a true blessing for my daily life”. We pray daily for all of you who have a serious illness, for your caregivers, and for your peace of mind at our community prayers and Masses.

Our Servite brothers in Australia have a St. Peregrine Healing Ministry, and reported that a woman there received God’s healing blessing through St. Peregrine’s intercession. It is so powerful to give God praise and thanksgiving for big and small miracles in daily life.

Before Christmas, a mother came up to me, crying with tears of joy that her son is cancer free after 8 months of working with his therapy program and praying for St. Peregrine’s intercession. I praised God to receive this early Christmas present.

In September we had a wonderful concert with organist Dr. Walter Whitehouse and cantor Katherine Keberlein for thirty minutes before

our healing mass. Beautiful music helps to heal our mind, heart and soul from any stress and anxiety. If you plan some of your favorite church hymns each day, you may receive God’s blessing and healing connection. Our parish Wednesday morning art class plays chant music each week, as we color art pages. It is very relaxing, healing and stress-free for the participants, like Marge, who says, “Fr. Chris, this is my therapy group.” If you would like a free page yourself, please write me and I will send one as a blessing.

God bless you, your family, friends and caregivers,

**- Fr. Chris Krymski, OSM**



*Healing does not mean going back to the way things were before, but rather allowing what is now to move us closer to God*

# Thank you St Peregrine

- Prayers in thanksgiving for all the healing blessings for my family’s health of mind, body and spirit...
- Thank you, God for being with all patients who are undergoing tests, waiting for results and surgery...
- O Lord, I appreciate your healing hand with my family and friends. Please ease their stress, worries and troubles this day...
- Thankyou, Lordforgiving me a pain-free night’s rest from my pinched nerve. Thank you for getting me this far with my spinal problems...
- For our Earth’s Healing from all pollution, wars, hatred and natural disasters...

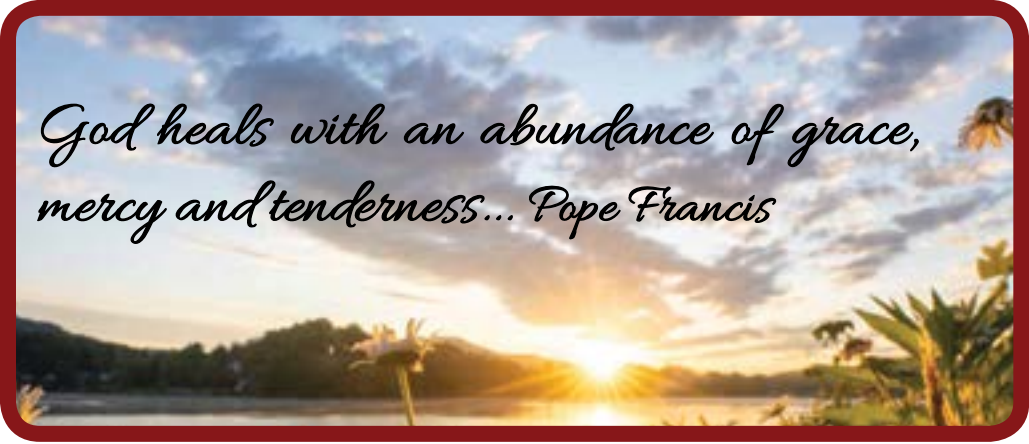
**Newsletter of the Servite St. Peregrine Ministry**  
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[www.facebook.com/TheCancerSaint](https://www.facebook.com/TheCancerSaint)







*God heals with an abundance of grace,  
mercy and tenderness... Pope Francis*

some healing in the form of a simple quiet presence, a loving touch, and spoken words which affirm, comfort and express love. The very acceptance of one's illness can be healing, when a person gradually lets go of understandable anger, sadness, and even doubt about God's presence, and surrenders into a gentle dependence on God's compassion, shown in ways they may have previously missed, because they were hoping for something else. I once prayed for a dear friend's healing, knowing, deep down, that she would experience ultimate healing only by passing into God's eternity.

So when Jesus asks, "Do you believe I can heal you?" his question can include physical, mental, emotional and spiritual aspects of our lives, including inner and inter-personal struggles, like painful childhood memories, a struggling marriage, the absence of joy, the giving or receiving of forgiveness, recovery from abuse and violence, and more. We may also realize that healing is usually a process, which requires time, patience and perseverance. And sometimes the healing process itself can hurt, whether physically, like a bone that needs to be re-broken in order to heal properly, or emotionally, like 'scar tissue' that forms to protect a wound, but which can also make deeper healing more challenging. Some people refuse chemotherapy because the price for healing is too high. Jesus' question, then, may imply, "Will you give me access to your wounded places, and trust me to touch them with healing love?" While we wait for the healing we desire, God may be waiting for our permission to heal

us more deeply, or in different ways, or to notice how healing is already slowly happening in places we had not noticed. While we who are reading this article may first have been attracted by St Peregrine's miraculous cure, his 'healing' had actually begun years earlier when he experienced the understanding and forgiveness of Father Philip Benizi, OSM, a man of peace. That encounter led him into a community known for a ministry of compassion to those whose crosses of suffering take so many forms.

In the spirit of St Peregrine, then, we are all invited to reflect on both of Jesus' questions to us, "Do you want to be healed?" and also, "Do you believe I can heal you?" In some gospel stories, Jesus explicitly states that the person's faith made the healing possible. While healing does not overly depend on us, nor our degree of faith, we do seem to have a choice to make, and that is to trust and to allow God to heal us as God wishes. Whether healed as we would like or not, we may experience a moment of self-discovery about our true relationship with our Creator, and what we really believe.

Our prayer may sometimes be a simple attention to our lives, and awareness of the healing presence of God in them, in ways we might not have thought about or even imagined. And when we are ready and willing to respond, with some degree of authentic conviction and wholeheartedness, "Yes, I believe and trust that you can heal me," then we may also hear something similar to what the people in the Scripture stories heard: Your eyes are now opened to see what you've been missing; your ears hear the Word spoken in your heart and in nature and through others; you have been made clean in order to begin again; so get up and walk...especially toward others who might experience some healing through your compassion for them, as one who believes, trusts, and continues to be healed.

**- Fr. John Fontana, OSM**

Your donation will help us to continue the good works of our Ministry Office in publishing and distributing this newsletter free of charge to parishes, hospitals and prayer centers across the country. Please visit [www.servite.org/product/give-now/](http://www.servite.org/product/give-now/) to help us spread the good word that others are praying for those with serious illness. Thank you !

## **Time doesn't heal all wounds; God heals wounds.**

### **PRAYER**

**Jesus, you are our Healer; you are the Lord of all joy. You have given us many wonders of God's healing presence. We remember how you multiplied the loaves and fishes; you forgave sinners; you healed the lame, the blind and the sick; you welcomed outsiders and shared with them the Good News. You have also sent God's companions to encourage us. With Blessed Mother Mary and St. Peregrine, OSM, you have given us mentors of kindness and joy. Thank you always for sharing God's Holy Spirit with us as we seek goodness in any troubled situation, and look forward to the many ways that we will receive healing. We make this healing prayer and ask your blessing in Jesus Christ's Name, Amen.**

## Other Servite St Peregrine Resources

This newsletter is just one of a number of sources of Servite information, prayer and inspiration related to St Peregrine Laziosi, OSM. Below you will find some links to some additional sources:

For daily prayer, reflections and articles, see the Facebook page of the National Shrine of St Peregrine (located at Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica in Chicago, IL USA): <https://www.facebook.com/TheCancerSaint/>

To enroll as a St Peregrine Prayer Partner for hope, peace, and healing, go to: <https://servite.org/st-peregrine/prayer-partner-enrollment-form/>

For some original Servite prayers “in praise of” St Peregrine, please go to: <http://servidimaria.net/sitoosm/en/textosom/praiseof/04.pdf>

To listen to a podcast interview of Fr John Fontana, OSM by the Catholic Health Association, on the role of intercession of the saints (particularly Peregrine) in Catholic Healthcare:

[https://catholic-health-usa-podcast.simplecast.com/episodes/inspired-by-the-saints-HBOyE\\_a0](https://catholic-health-usa-podcast.simplecast.com/episodes/inspired-by-the-saints-HBOyE_a0)

(After an introductory section by the hosts, the actual interview begins around the 6 minute, 20 second mark)

The Servite community includes religious Sisters and laypersons of the Servite Secular Order, along with the friars (priests and brothers). Among these are The Servite Sisters whose motherhouse is in Omaha, NE. Their website related to St Peregrine Ministry can be found at: <https://osms.org/monthly-mass-at-st-peregrine/>

A Spanish language version of this newsletter can be found at <https://servite.org/st-peregrine/>

## For prayerful reflection

1. Reflect on some way in which I have experienced the healing power of God, whether related to physical illness, or any other aspect of my life. Have I considered such things as acceptance of self or another, reconciliation with someone, finding relief from a painful memory, addiction recovery, or acceptance of my limits and mortality as forms of healing? How might I respond to God, perhaps with surprise, resistance, or in gratitude, when I become aware of such healing?
2. How has any limitation, illness, injury, etc. led me to feel more dependent on God, and perhaps positively affected my faith and trust in our healing God? Or is this problematic for me, and worthy of some attention? Turn your thoughts and feelings about this into direct, honest prayer to God, who desires to heal us. Then honestly respond to Jesus' question, “Do you believe that I can heal you?”
3. How have I been, or how might I be, a healing presence in the life of someone who is in pain, or estranged, or needy in some other way? Might my thinking about this person (or these persons) lead me to make a personal visit, phone call, email, letter?
4. Scripture for reflection: Prayerfully reflect on a healing story in the gospel, for example: the healing and the faith of the man born blind (John 9); the paralyzed man, healed and forgiven (Mark 2: 9-12); the woman who touched Jesus' garment with faith (Matthew 9: 20-22); the 10 lepers, one of them grateful (Luke 17: 12-17). How does any of these stories speak to you: of healing, faith, gratitude, and Jesus' desire to heal the whole person, and to show the power of God's healing love?

### St. Peregrine Ministry is:

*Companionship & Support, with Faith, Compassion & Prayer toward Hope, Peace & Healing*

**A healing Mass, and blessing with the relic of St. Peregrine, is celebrated monthly at the National Shrine of St. Peregrine (in Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica, 3121 W Jackson Blvd, Chicago). The Mass is celebrated in English at 11AM on the third Saturday of each month, and in Spanish at 11AM on the second Saturday each month. All are invited. Please visit and subscribe to our YouTube channel “Servite St. Peregrine Healing Ministry.”**