



Reflections on 'The Greater Things'

AUGUST 2020

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"Amen, Amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater things than these, because I am going to the Father." (John 14:12)

EXPERT WRITES OF CONSTANT HEALINGS - By Michael H. Brown

EXPERT WRITES OF CONSTANT HEALINGS WHEN FAITHFUL USE BIBLE, FOLLOW DIRECTIVE OF JESUS

We tend to treat spiritual healings as rare miracles — *something like a bolt from the blue*; very unusual. Meanwhile, often (too often) we hear of diagnoses that seem insurmountable. Cancer. Diabetes. Heart problems. Arthritis. [Pandemics] Indeed, modern scourges!

Yet according to nationally-known Catholic healing expert Dr. Francis MacNutt — who was once a prime speaker on the charismatic circuit (drawing thousands to stadiums) — wondrous cures in fact occur on a constant basis and need to be focused upon by our clergy as well as the faithful. *Not everyone gets better.* And most often — with spiritual healing — it's a gradual or partial process (more improvement than total reversal, despite the histrionics we sometimes see on TV).

But there are many, many total cures and — as MacNutt points out — if ten percent of cancer patients were cured by a new drug, people would flock to get it, even travel to somewhere like Mexico.

Yet that's probably the percentage with spiritual healing or thereabouts — total reversals of misfortune, meaning we should flock here also! MacNutt recounts

in a new, highly readable, useful new book (endorsed by his bishop) called *The Practice of Healing Prayer* the case of one woman who had a leg that was six inches shorter than the other but that witnesses (including a bishop) actually observed to grow several inches over the course of a couple days. (The bishop, Uribe Jaramillo, of Colombia, later became a leader of the Charismatic Renewal in Latin America).

Dr. MacNutt, who runs Christian Healing Ministries in Jacksonville, Florida, was involved in one study of forty arthritic patients with the results that the average number of tender joints in those participating went from nearly 17 to less than six, while swollen joints declined to a *third* of what they had been. Four of the patients were totally healed through prayer.

Our point: there is *always* hope. Prayer works. We should rely upon it as much as anything else. We should even bless our medications (to make them more effective or to prevent side effects). Everyone has a role.

There is *nothing* that cannot be cured (if the situation is right, if the prayers are right, if the heart is right, and when God wills). Now let's get to the actual mechanics of healing:

Most effective, says MacNutt, is when we pray for each other in the presence of each other — opening with a prayer of

protection, asking for the Holy Spirit to guide us, being specific, expressing gratitude, bringing in the Blessed Mother, having high expectations, leaving out doubt. And of course, primarily, invoking Jesus.

Often, says MacNutt, healing necessitates "soaking prayer": We have to "bathe" the infirm with hours or even days of praying — not just hasty supplication (although there are times when quick prayers work). In the history of the Church's "desert fathers" is the account of the monk Macarius, who cured a paralyzed woman by anointing her and praying over continuously for forty days. Long periods of supplication were also recounted when Saint André of Montreal healed through anointed oil.

Blessed salt and Holy Water are similarly useful, claims the evangelist — even drinking the water.

Often, we also need to address *emotional* healing. ***"The most prominent obstacles to our receiving healing are hated and unforgiveness,"*** MacNutt says. We must forgive everyone everything, or we hold ourselves back; we are in bondage to them. We must purge sin, pride, and bad habits. When there is darkness, this is an obstacle. He emphasizes the special need for healing prayers in the *confessional*. "I think that if

SPOUSE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT —BY AMY MOSBACHER

"When you get back to America, Our Lady will begin to reveal her secrets to you."

Fr. Luke Newington gave me that prophecy while we stood on a balcony overlooking Moscow over 25 years ago. I didn't know what to make of that at the time. Maybe in my wildest dreams I could imagine hearing Mary's whisper saying, "First secret..." but even I knew that wasn't likely! Sometimes with God nothing is ever as it seems. Without using any extraordinary methods, Mother Mary has been teaching me many things about how she lived her earthly life and her relationship with God. One way has been by looking at how Mary has been referred to by saints, popes, and other ordinary people, throughout the ages. A title says something about a person, and one title that's fascinating to me is the Immaculate Conception.

The Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette Soubirous in 1858, and when Bernadette asked who she was, the Virgin replied, "I am the Immaculate Conception." This caused a bit of consternation for Church authorities. Bernadette was only 14, and with the communication devices of the time it was highly unlikely the girl had heard news of a 3 year-old decree from Rome honoring Mary as just that, the Immaculate Conception. (Not only that, Mary was referring to herself as a verb. People aren't verbs.) When the title was first

introduced in France in the twelfth century, many opposed the title (including St. Bernard of Clairvaux and St. Thomas Aquinas), saying that it detracted from the universality of redemption by Christ. It was only explained with theological clarity in the thirteenth century by Bl. John Duns Scotus, a Franciscan, who resolved those objections by explaining that Christ can save and redeem in two ways: he can rescue from sin those already fallen; or he can preserve one from being touched by sin even for an instant. The Council of Basel in 1439 affirmed this belief, and later the Council of Trent (1545-1563) explicitly declared that Mary was exempt from the taint of original sin. Since that time the belief was generally embraced, and the apparitions at Lourdes were as if Mary was giving her personal seal of approval. It only took a year and a half for the apparitions at Lourdes to be declared worthy of belief.

But what has this to do with Mary being the Spouse of the Holy Spirit? For that we need to understand a little more of who the Holy Spirit is. He is God, and there is nothing stained in God, so He is Immaculate. He is also eternal, forever being the love that is shared between the Father and the Son. Our human example is marriage, and when spouses share love, a new love is conceived and born, love is fruitful. The Holy Spirit is the Giver of Life and is always conceiving new life in us. He is

Continued on pg 4

upcoming events

First Saturday of the Month

Mass in honor of Our Lady

9:00 AM at St. Gregory's, Northeast, PA

Sacred Music beginning at 8:50 AM

Music provided by: Soloist, Jacqueline Phillip;
Violinist, Louis Nicolai and Organist Corey Spacht

Spirit Filled - Healing Mass

Sponsored by Son of God Prayer Group

Tuesday October 6th

6:30 PM Worship 6:15

Holy Rosary Church 2701 East Ave, Erie

Save the Date *Greater Things Conference*

Oyr Lady Of Peace, Erie
Saturday, October 17, 2020
8:30 am - 3:30 pm

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CONSTANT HEALINGS- Continued from Page 1

priests would learn to say prayers after the sacramental Confession asking Jesus to heal the sinful tendencies and addictions to the sins that have been confessed, people would flock to Confession," he notes.

All of the sacraments — and sacramentals — are valuable.

"The Eucharistic celebration is also a time when you can ask Jesus to heal you emotionally of past hurts," points out the book.

"You simply break down your life into several natural divisions of time, such as year by year or by childhood, adolescence, young adulthood, and so forth. At home, before Mass, spend some time writing down the blessings that you remember during that year, and then in another column, write down the painful things that wounded you, especially if they were connected with broken relationships, such as with parents or authority figures like teachers. When you are at Mass, make your special intention first of all a thanksgiving for all the good things that happened during that year. Then take the harmful things you listed and ask the Lord, especially as you receive Him in Communion, to bring inner healing to each one."

The laying-on-of-hands seems often to greatly help, when done while praying for the Holy Spirit, reciting the Rosary, speaking in tongues, or simply talking to God spontaneously from the heart. (Before any laying-on-of-hands, we should add, there should be prayer and fasting, for one person can impart a spirit to another). But what a promise this is: that life on earth will not be terrifying if we are in a constant state of Godly communication, if we simply follow what Jesus told us to do and what He Himself did. Never mind just "wonderworkers": you too can heal. You too — in your

own household — can *be* healed. *That's not so say there aren't folks who have a special healing gift. There are. It is to say that with persistence and faith (underline "persistence") many remarkable cures or improvements occur. "For example,"* writes MacNutt, "we have seen instances in which the longer we prayed over a cancerous tumor, the more the growth seemed to grow *smaller* and *softer* while we prayed until, at last, the tumor was totally gone."

"How can it be that in the early Church (the first 350 years), everyone prayed for the sick, but today most of us can't remember even our mothers or fathers praying with us when we were sick as children?" asks the author.

Pope Benedict XVI actively encouraged Catholics to be baptized in the Spirit and to rediscover and experience the charisms, including healing.

With over forty years of experience, I've seen thousands of sick people at least get better when we pray, and some are totally healed. The most extraordinary thing of all is how much healing takes place. Once you actually see what happens to bless your family and friends when you pray, your life (and your family's life) will never be the same."

Indeed! We are *all* called to heal. Jesus said this. ***"Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those suffering from virulent skin diseases, drive out devils" (Matthew 10:1, 7-8).*** That was to the twelve apostles but right after the same kind of directive was given to the 72 disciples who basically represent the rest of us. ***"All the marks characteristic of a true apostle have been at work among you: complete perseverance, signs, marvels, demonstrations of power,"*** adds 2 Corinthians 12:12.

Yet once the Church became *institutionalized*, healing suddenly became the province only of saints and priests — special holy people — and in England and France it became the province only of the king and queen. (In England it was illegal for a time to heal if you were not royalty!)

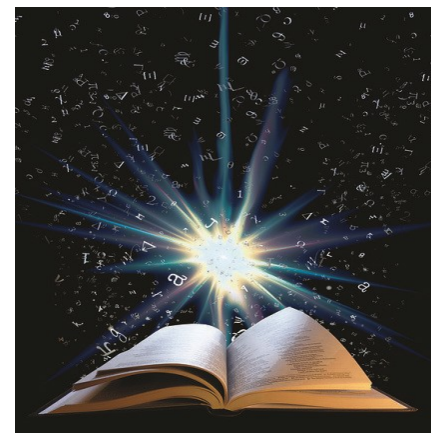
In our own time, one segment of Christianity continues to follow the prescriptions for miracles from Scripture, while the other segment, says MacNutt, have unfortunately followed extremes in the "logical" way of the "Enlightenment" and "Age of Reason," including its "sophisticated agnostic" view of healing."

Laments the healing evangelist, "These intellectuals now began to teach that healing prayer and exorcism were superstitions that represented a primitive approach to religion."

Once more, all we have to do is **go back to Scripture**. Just **read the Bible** — upon which Christianity is based. The signs that will be associated with believers are that ***"they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover,"*** said Jesus (Mk 16:17).

[resources: Francis MacNutt's The Practice of Healing Prayer]

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<https://spiritdaily.org/blog/healing/macnutt-healing>



SPOUSE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT -CON'D FROM PAGE2

the Immaculate Conception. Mary, being touched by the Holy Spirit in her mother's womb from the instant of her own conception, has a unique relationship with God, and is therefore referred to as the Holy Spirit's spouse. She took her spouse's name as her own. (Which helps us understand that Mary is not the verb, the Holy Spirit is.) St. Maximilian Kolbe has written so much on Mary as the Immaculata. The above explanation is based on his and Fr. Michael Gaitley's writings.

So what has all this to do with us? It is only by the Holy Spirit that we are even able to call on God, much less call Him Father, or Daddy. It is only by the Holy Spirit that we, individually or as a Church, can be moved and changed. The Holy Spirit is the one who, poured out to us at our Baptism, opens our eyes to the *reality* of God. He helps us see God's truth, beauty, and goodness, and to be able to find these things in the world around us. We need the Holy Spirit, who fills us with His gifts and fruits, to grow closer to the One who calls us to be His children. We do not have it in ourselves to even bring the whisper of a prayer to our lips, to bring our minds to consider Him, or to move our hearts to love Him, except for the movement of the Holy Spirit in us. The Holy Spirit is constantly drawing us closer to God until one day we will know the mystical union of our souls with Him, which is foreshadowed in this life in the Eucharist. Mary lived that mystical union every moment of her life. Not that the union is a static state of being. Mary was educated her whole life by God, formed, her soul deepened and prepared for her for her first to be the Mother of Jesus, and then to be our spiritual mother. She is our perfect model who is already enjoying the reward of surrendering her soul to God. "*Behold, the handmaid of the Lord.*" There is no one better to help us surrender ourselves to the working of the Holy Spirit in our souls than His Spouse.

Holy Mother Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, pray for us!

"May she, Spouse of the Holy Spirit and his perfect co-operator, teach today's Christian community how to let themselves be guided and pervaded by the divine Spirit, so that the bonds of charity and communion may be strengthened in them, and the message of Christ, Savior of the world, may be credible to all."

~ St. John Paul II



*"Do whatever He
tells you"*

I COUNT IT ALL BUT LOSS

By Kathryn Wilcox

I heard this statement many years ago, and it makes good sense. Everything we do, everything we say has an effect on others, on ourselves, and on the future. The price is not always monetary; Most things cannot be counted in dollars and cents.

FAITH in GOD is one of those things. What is proclaiming and practicing my faith worth to me? I just read that “poor Christians in China have a choice if they receive a welfare check to live on. If they renounce their faith, they will receive the check they need to live on. The “opportunity cost” is that they must renounce their faith. In other words, to live, it will cost them their faith in God, possibly their salvation.

In the Columbine high school shootings, over 20 years ago, the students in the library were one by one asked if they were a Christian. Those who said yes, were shot. The “opportunity cost was giving their lives in order to obtain eternal life. What courage those young people had. They knew that this world and whatever happens in it is only a means to reach eternal life with God. Young martyrs. Living and dying by Philipians 4:8:

“Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord”

I also remember a personal story. Over 30 years ago, I worked with the Religious Education program at my church. Students were being prepared for First Holy Communion, and at a meeting with other teachers it was revealed that one family had serious problems. The father was abusive, and the price the mother paid each week for bringing her children to Mass and classes, was retaliatory severe physical abuse. Cost for being sure her children were catechized? Physical beatings. Her youngest son was in the First Communion class. One of the other parents overheard the teachers trying to figure out how to obtain a proper outfit for the child. He asked if he could buy the boy an outfit. He made light of his offer, saying he ‘had two girls and this would be his only chance to shop for a boy.’ A beautiful gift. First Communion Sunday arrived

and the family was late. When they finally showed up, I was relieved. Then I noticed that the mother was limping. I found out later that her husband had thrown her down the steps that morning. She brought her child to receive Jesus even though there was a severe ‘opportunity cost.’ Jesus came in the Eucharist to all the children, including the child who Satan tried to keep away. Jesus also came and blessed the kind stranger who came to the aid of one of His little ones.

When I say I believe, I have to remember that it may get increasingly more difficult down the road to profess my faith publicly and to refuse to kneel for anyone except Jesus Christ. I cannot speculate at this point what the cost will be... Economic hardship? Physical attack? Martyrdom? I know it is a time to make sure that what we are most attached to is Jesus. I wonder if I would have strength of the student martyrs of Columbine; of the people who choose Jesus in countries where the cost of faith is severe persecution, abuse, or even death; or that brave young mother who paid a great price for teaching her children the importance of the Mass and the Sacraments. We all likely have tough choices ahead. I pray that if I am put to the test, like the people in this article and countless others, I will have faith and fortitude and courage to always say “Yes” to Jesus. Paul was no stranger to persecution, so I turned to him for wisdom:

“Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.”

As I read Paul’s words from 2 Corinthians (12:10. NASB), I realized that I don’t need to worry. Yes, I am weak, but if trust Jesus, He will be my strength and help me to do what He needs me to do. Amen





Angels God's Ministering Spirits 'Greater Things' Livestream Speaker: TA Walkiewicz

Saturday, August 22, 2020

9:30-12:00

Join Us For Our First
LIVESTREAM!

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things begin
to come to pass,
look up! and lift
up your heads;
for your redemption
draweth nigh"
Luke 21:28*



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Bruce Gingrich, & Worship by Harmony's House



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Presider: Fr Jonathan Schmolt

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The purpose of this newsletter is to proclaim
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teaching, news, and calendar of events, which
help to foster Catholic Charismatic Renewal
throughout the Diocese of Erie.

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