

Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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1/14/21

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have entered the time of the year called ordinary.

In the language of the Church, ordinary does not mean common or worldly. Ordinary means that Jesus lived a life of daily human activity, doing everything in the Spirit and revealing the power of God in a unique and special way.

Jesus sanctifies every human activity and makes the Spirit accessible, even close to us, in everyday events and the people that surround us daily. Jesus healed many, and his healing of physical ailments points to His spiritual healing power.

Jesus is the physician of the body and the soul. Bishop Robert Barron reminds us that the gospels are full of accounts of Jesus' healing encounters with those whose spiritual energies cannot flow. Indeed, many of the Saints and theologians of the ancient Church conceived of evil as something missing, something a person should have, not something added. When Jesus restored to people something that was especially lacking in their relationship with God and knowledge of God, their health returned spontaneously.

A large part of Jesus' ministry consisted in teaching people how to see the kingdom of God, how to listen to the voice of the Spirit, how to walk again by overcoming paralysis of the heart, and how to free themselves from themselves to discover God.

When the soul is healthy it is in a living relationship with God. When the soul is ill, the whole person becomes ill, because everything flows from and depends on the dynamic encounter with the source of being and life that is God. We heal the soul by bringing it to the savior, the healer, the one who in his person reconciled us with God and opened the soul to divine power.

May we recognize God in our daily life and the invitation to share in his blessed life, an invitation offered by Jesus Christ.

In Christ the Most Holy Redeemer,

Francis Mulvaney, C.Ss.R.

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Pastor