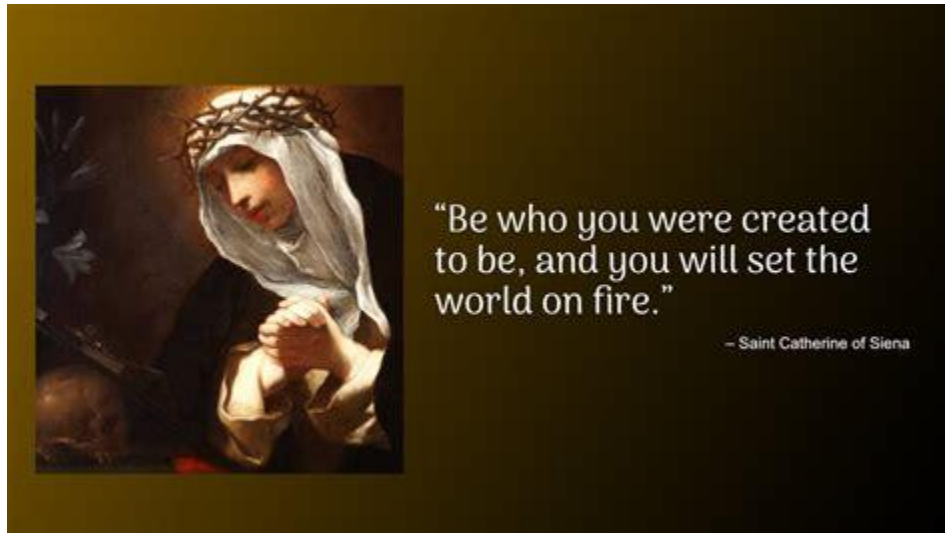


FROM FATHER JOHN: *“Entrust yourself entirely to God. He is a Father and a most loving Father at that, who would rather let heaven and earth collapse than abandon anyone who trusted in him.”* – St. Paul of the Cross



“After Jesus left the synagogue, he entered the house of Simon. Simon's mother-in-law was afflicted with a severe fever, and they interceded with him about her. He stood over her, rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up immediately and waited on them.” (Luke 4:38 – 39)

Something interesting and important happens in this gospel passage. St. Peter's mother immediately gets up and begins serving her guests after our Lord Jesus heals her. She doesn't wait, she doesn't ask for time to collect herself, she doesn't claim that she needs to rest because she has been sick. The gospel reports that ***“She got up immediately and waited on them.”***

This is echoed in one of the prayers that the priest says after anointing a sick person when he is giving him or her the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. *“Lord Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, by the grace of your Holy Spirit cure the weakness of your servant. Heal his sickness and forgive his sins; expel all afflictions of mind and body; **mercifully restore him to full health, and enable him to resume his former duties,** for you are Lord for ever and ever.”*

Notice that this prayer does not end with us just asking the Lord to grant the sick person good health. That is not enough. We ask for something more than just

good health; we ask that the Lord restore the sick person completely so that he or she can go back to their normal way of life.

Our Lord Jesus heals St. Peter's mother. He heals us of all sorts of things all the time. The insight that comes from this gospel passage, when we read that St. Peter's mother gets ***up immediately and waits on them***, is that our Lord offers us more than just healing. Yes, He does heal us, but He also offers us so much more.

He offers us restoration. He promises to make us whole again. He transforms our lives. And, He offers us complete and total renewal so that we can truly be the person He created us to be. It's something we pray for, in one way or another, every time we receive the sacraments. It's a beautiful and grace-filled gift that our Lord Jesus gives us when we allow Him to heal us.

May God Bless you and all those who love the Lord!