

# Lenten Reflection

Tuesday, Fourth Week of Lent March 28, 2017



By Sister Marilyn McMillin, CDP

We have all noticed times when water has been a healing source. Many times we have enjoyed the soothing powers of a swimming pool or the calming nature of an ocean. The pool at the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem with five porticoes was like that, healing, calming, soothing. The water can be a marvelous source of renewal, but it does us no good if we cannot get there. So the scene is set for the encounter our Lord had with a man who had visited the place many times in hopes of healing. He might as well have been in another country because once he had the pool in sight he was unceremoniously left there to fend for himself. Who brought him there year after year we know not. Why he was left there is a mystery. However, the fact of the matter is that he was helplessly alone until, out of the throng of people milling around, Jesus saw him. Jesus knew the man's need. The man said that when the water in the pool was stirred up, someone faster or who had help got there first.

Jesus, the source of all empowerment, looked at the man with gusto and told him to get up, take his mat with him, and walk. The man did so immediately. Jesus commanded him forcefully. We know the story. Jesus did this healing on the Sabbath. The man was so happy that he walked around the town. Other Jews saw him and instead of rejoicing in his healing, warned him about carrying his mat on the Sabbath. Now that man did not know Jesus' name.

Afterwards Jesus saw the man in the temple area. Jesus told him to be happy that he could walk. Delving deeper into the man's soul, Jesus also told him to sin no more so that nothing worse would happen to him. The beaming man told the other Jews that the healer's name was Jesus. So began the march to Calvary. The Jews began to persecute Jesus because he had cured a man on the Sabbath.

How happy we are that we live in this day and age. If we need healing on a Sunday we can always find a place of healing. We might complain about the Emergency Room's wait but it will be less than the 38 years the man above had to wait at the pool. Isn't it amazing that no one before Jesus asked to help this man? They saw his physical need for healing but there was so much more to the cause of his illness.

We have two weeks left until we rejoice with the feast of our Risen Lord. What can we do to help our Providence people enjoy their walk with the Lord? Let us reread Sister Maria Fest's Lenten Letter to us. We are asked to focus on the second part of the Providence Prayer. We commit ourselves to making God's Providence more visible in our world with fidelity, courage, compassion, and hope. Let us strive to have no one that we see feel ignored. Let us offer courage to all those on our prayer lists. May we show compassion to the lowly and those who do not see their worth as an acknowledgement of the power of our Creator God. Let us be bastions of charity by refraining from negative speech of any kind. As the Psalmist prays: Create in me a clean heart, O God.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> PS 51:12A, 14A