

Pastoral Reflection
28th Sunday, Ordinary Time
October 9, 2022

This week our Scriptures feature healings. In our first reading from the Book of Kings Naaman, a Gentile king is cleansed of leprosy in the Jordon river. In the Gospel 10 lepers are cured by Jesus, but only, one a Samaritan, returns to thank Jesus. In both these passages there is more going on than physical cures. Naaman realizes that there has been a divine intervention and he accepts the God of Elisha as his redeemer. In the Gospel the Samaritan undergoes a physical cure but more than that he "glorifies God in a loud voice". There has been "healing transformations". These two are not the same after having been touched by a divinity.

We really need "healing transformations" in our society and in our institutional church. I offer you a special invitation to hear one of the "healers" of our day and age. On October 13th at 7 pm at the SLU Center for Global Citizenship Bishop Stowe from Lexington will be speaking words of "healing". Bishop Stowe is a bishop of the people, especially those on the margins of society. At one time he was the Vicar General and Chancellor for the Diocese of El Paso in Texas and he stood with immigrants as they faced the discrimination of so many. In Lexington he has raised his voice against racism. He has been a champion for the LGBTQIA community. He has criticized former President Trump as not truly being pro-life.

I have personally met Bishop Stowe and he encouraged me to continue my involvement in faith-based community organizing, which he was deeply engaged with in Texas. He graduated from St. Louis University. When I contacted him inviting him to come to St. Louis to speak to us, I mentioned that I am serving at St. Cronan Parish. He responded saying, "I know St. Cronan's well!" We are known by bishops outside of St. Louis!?

Please join us for this spirited evening. Bishop Stowe's presentation is sponsored by the Seeds Of Justice Network (SOJN), Pax Christi, Catholic Charities, SLU and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (out of the Office of Peace and Justice). The title of his presentation is: "How can the Church be Prophetic in a Time of great Polarization". Lets join Bishop Stowe in lifting up those on the margins.

Be safe and be blessed,
Fr. Jack (he/him)