

**Homily – Health Care Professional Mass  
Church of Saint Luke  
October 18, 2021**

*“Into whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this household.’”*

**Luke 10: 1-9**

Like any good health-care professional, Luke paid attention. Beside this, he had a writer’s eye and ear, and a scientist’s curiosity. The story of Jesus and his Gospel of a kingdom touched something inside this Syrian physician. Luke accompanied Paul on several of his missionary journeys and met some of the key figures in the Jesus story. From his meetings and interviews with witnesses to Jesus, Luke wrote the third Gospel, the most accurate and detailed of the four we have in Scripture; his travel diaries became the Acts of the Apostles.

But Luke’s Gospel is not just a well-written and detailed narrative. His Gospel shows an interest in the people whose lives have been profoundly affected and healed by their encounter with the rabbi Jesus. Luke recounts the common stories of humanity which include outcasts, sinners, the poor, the marginalized, including women -- those who mattered little in the culture and society of the time and today. These are important human stories because these stories are

all of us. For Luke, the healing treatment for the human condition was always Jesus revealing the compassion of God's unconditional love and forgiveness which makes a person whole and able to bring this healing to others. The provocative manner in which St. Luke portrays these stories encourages us to embrace God's presence in our midst enabling us to heal with our medical skill and love.

During a General Audience, speaking of the covid-19 pandemic, Pope Francis said "... if the virus were to intensify again in a world that is unjust to the poor and vulnerable, then we must change the world." Pointing to the example of Jesus, "the doctor of integrated divine love," the Holy Father said, "we must act now, to heal the epidemic caused by small, invisible viruses, and to heal those caused by serious and visible social injustices." Pope Francis proposed to accomplish this "by starting from the love of God, placing the peripheries at the centre and those who are least in first place. Starting from this love anchored in hope and founded in faith, a healthier world will be possible." (Vatican, General Audience, 8-19-2020)

To do this, we have to follow Luke's lead and pay attention: pay attention to the light of charity that illuminates our landscape, to be curious about what compels men and women of good will to follow Jesus; to commit ourselves to making this Gospel a real and meaningful part of our lives and sharing it with others.

**May Saint Luke be our traveling companion on our journey to God. May his Gospel be our guide to realizing the kingdom of God in this time and place of ours.**

**In your life vocation to be healers of humankind your faith as well as your presence here today indicates your desire to embrace the spirit of the Gospel as recounted by the evangelist Saint Luke. God Bless you for this! May you always know that God will never be outdone by your generosity! May you continue to honor God by honoring the poor, the lost and the forgotten as you tend to their medical needs. May you continue your work of reconciliation begun by the master physician Jesus as you continue to build a kingdom of justice and peace in our world which is in such need of healing.**

**May Mother Mary, Our Lady of Good Health (Our Lady of Vailankanni, Velankanni, Tamil Nadu, India 16<sup>th</sup> Century) protect us and show us the way!**