

*PENTECOST SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2016*

*RACHEL NAOMI REMEN IS A PYSICIAN IN CALIFORNIA WHO WORKS WITH CANCER PATIENTS AND WRITES ON HEALING....IN HER BOOK, MY GRANDFATHER'S BLESSINGS SHE RECALLS AN EXPERIENCE SHE HAD IN HER EARLY YEARS AS A RESIDENT WHEN SHE CARED FOR A DESPERATELY ILL "TWO YEAR OLD BOY WITH BACTERIAL MENINGITIS. DEEPLY UNCONSCIOUS, RICARDO LAY IN A NEST OF IV LINES AND MONITOR CORDS, HIS TINY BODY ALMOST HIDDEN BY THE TECHNOLOGY THAT SUPPORTED AND DOCUMENTED HIS STRUGGLE TO LIVE. HIS MOTHER, A SLIGHT FILIPINA WOMAN, SAT AT THE FOOT OF HIS BED DAY AFTER DAY. SHE EVEN SLEPT THERE, SITTING IN HER CHAIR AND LEANING FORWARD ACROSS THE MATTRESS. WHENEVER ANY OF US CAME TO EXAMINE RICARDO OR DRAW BLOOD FROM HIM, WE WOULD FIND HER THERE, OFTEN WITH HER EYES CLOSED, ONE HAND UNDER HER BABY'S BLANKET. SHE WAS HOLDING ON TO HIS FOOT. AFTER HE BEGAN TO RECOVER AND THE LIFE-SUPPORT EQUIPMENT WAS WITHDRAWN, I ASKED HER ABOUT THIS. SHE SMILED AND LOOKED AWAY, A LITTLE EMBARASSED. BUT SHE TOLD ME THAT FOR ALL THOSE DAYS SHE HAD FELT THAT HIS LIFE DEPENDED ON HER HOLDING ON TO HIS FOOT. MOVED, I ASKED HER WHAT HAD BEEN GOING ON IN HER MIND ALL THAT TIME. HAD SHE BEEN PRAYING FOR HIS RECOVERY? NO, SHE TOLD ME, WHILE SHE WAS HOLDING HIS FOOT, SHE WOULD JUST CLOSE HER EYES AND DREAM HER DREAMS FOR HIM.*

*DAY AFTER DAY SHE WOULD WATCH HIM GROW UP. SHE WOULD  
IMAGINE TAKING HIM TO HIS FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, SEE HIM LEARNING  
TO READ AND TO WRITE AND PLAY BALL, SIT IN CHURCH AT HIS FIRST  
COMMUNION, WATCH HIM GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL, DANCE AT  
HIS WEDDING. SHE WOULD IMAGINE HIM AS THE FATHER OF HER  
GRANDCHILD. OVER AND OVER AGAIN. SHE FLUSHED SLIGHTLY.  
“PERHAPS,” SHE TOLD ME, “IT MADE A DIFFERENCE.”*

*I BEGIN WITH THAT STORY BECAUSE TODAY IS PENTECOST SUNDAY AND  
WE WOULD LIKE TO FOCUS ON JUST ONE GIFT OF THE SPIRIT TODAY -  
THE GIFT OF HEALING AND THAT PHILIPHINA WOMAN IS A MODEL FOR  
US IN TERMS OF SEEKING OUT AND BEING OPEN TO THE SPIRIT'S GIFT  
OF HEALING,*

*AS WE HEARD IN THE SECOND READING THERE ARE MANY GIFTS BUT  
ALWAYS THE SAME SPIRIT.....*

*AND IN OUR GOSPEL WE HEAR THE RISEN JESUS GREETING HIS  
FOLLOWERS WHO ARE MIRED IN DISCOURAGEMENT AND FEAR WITH:  
PEACE BE WITH YOU AND RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT - WHOSE SINS YOU  
FORGIVE THEY ARE FORGIVEN.....*

*THE RISEN CHRIST SHARING WITH THEM A HEALING SPIRIT, A  
RECONCILING AND RENEWING SPIRIT....*

*SO TODAY I WOULD LIKE TO EMPASIZE THE SPIRIT'S GIFTS OF  
HEALING IN OUR COMMUNITY.....*

*NOTICE THAT IN ALL THREE READINGS THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT ARE*

*GIVEN TO THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY - NOT JUST A FEW  
SO TOO THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT - INCLUDING THE GIFTS OF HEALING -  
HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY BY WAY OF OUR  
BAPTISM, OUR CONFIRMATION - NOT JUST THE PRIEST OR JUST THE  
DEACON - OR EVEN JUST THE LITURGY COORDINATORS - BUT THE  
ENTIRE COMMUNITY HAS BEEN GIVEN THE GIFT OF HEALING....  
PERHAPS SOME HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE GIFT OF HEALING MORE THAN  
OTHERS BUT EVERYONE HAS BEEN GIVEN THE GIFT OF HEALING BY WAY  
OF THEIR BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION..  
BEGINNING TODAY WE ARE INITIATING A NEW WAY OF EXPRESSING  
GIFT OF HEALING IN OUR COMMUNITY - THIS IS IN ADDITION TO THE  
SACRAMENT OF THE SICK WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY A PRIEST WHICH  
IS FINE AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO UTILIZE THAT SACRAMENT THREE  
TIMES DURING THE YEAR IN A EUCHARISTIC SETTING AND WHENEVER IT  
IS REQUESTED AND NEEDED OUTSIDE OF A LITURGY..  
BUT WE WANT TO INTRODUCE AND UTILIZE THE SPIRIT'S GIFTS OF  
HEALING THAT HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY IN  
ANOTHER WAY - BEGINNING TODAY  
WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO IN A FEW MOMENTS IS INVITE WHOEVER  
WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST FROM THE COMMUNITY A HEALING PRAYER,  
HEALING OF SOME ILLNESS, SOME MALADY OF BODY, SOUL OR SPIRIT....  
TO EITHER STAND UP OR RAISE YOUR HAND.....  
AND THEN I WILL ASK THOSE AROUND THE INDIVIDUALS ASKING FOR*

*HEALING TO STAND UP AROUND AND EXTEND THEIR HANDS  
IN THE FORM OF A HEALING BLESSING AND IF THE PERSON IS  
COMFORTABLE WITH IT - THE BLESSING INDIVIDUALS CAN PUT THERE  
HANDS ON THE SHOULDERS AS A HEALING, BLESSING GESTURE....  
IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS NOT COMFORTABLE BEING TOUCHED - THAT'S  
FINE - JUST MOTION WITH BOTH HANDS - AND THEN THE OTHERS CAN  
JUST HOLD YOUR HANDS ABOVE THE INDIVIDUAL IN A BLESSING MODE  
NOTICE IN THE EXAMPLE I GAVE AT THE BEGINNING THE MOTHER WAS  
ALWAYS HOLDING THE FOOT OF HER SON - LITERALLY HOLDING ON  
FOR DEAR LIFE....AS IT WERE.....  
AND AS SHE SAID - I THINK IT MADE A DIFFERENCE...  
JUST LAST SUNDAY I WAS ALONE WITH MY BROTHER-IN-LAW AFTER  
MASS - MY SISTER WENT OUT TO EAT WITH HER SON FOR MOTHER'S DAY  
ACTUALLY, BOB WAS QUITE AGITATED AT THAT POINT AND WAS EVEN  
TRYING TO GET OUT OF BED.....I WAS ALONE WITH HIM  
SO IT WAS VERY HELPFUL FOR ME AND FOR HIM FOR ME TO PRAY WITH  
HIM AND PLACE MY HANDS ON HIS BODY IN A COMFORTING MANNER  
AND EVEN STROKE HIS SHOULDER....  
IT WAS CALMING FOR ME AND FOR HIM - I KNOW  
AND IT WAS CLEAR THAT HE IN HIS OWN WAY HE WAS PRAYING WITH ME  
WHEN I PRAYED THE HAIL MARY....  
I COULD DECIPHER SOME OF THE WORDS JUST A LITTLE BIT....  
THE TOUCH, THE STROKING WAS CALMING FOR HIM AND FOR ME....*

***CLEARLY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT....***

***JESUS TOUCHES THE INDIVIDUALS OFTEN WHEN HE HEALS THEM....***

***THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT TOUCH THAT CAN OFTEN BE CALMING  
AND HEALING.....***

***OF COURSE, THERE IS NO NEED TO LIMIT THIS PRAYER OF HEALING TO  
THIS CHURCH....***

***I ENCOURAGE YOU TO DO IT IN YOUR HOME WHEN THERE IS NEED FOR  
HEALING.....AS YOU PRAY WITH ONE ANOTHER.....***

***WHAT IS MORE NATURAL AND MORE FRUITFUL FOR A MOTHER OR A  
FATHER TO PRAY WITH A SON OR DAUGHTER FOR THEIR HEALING WHEN  
THEY ARE SICK....***

***IF YOU'VE HAD A PARENT WHO PRAYED WITH YOU WHEN YOU WERE ILL  
WITH A HEALING TOUCH AS A CHILD I'M SURE IT WAS A PROFOUND  
EXPERIENCE...***

***UNFORTUNATELY, IF I ASK WHO EXPERIENCED THAT, I PRESUME IT  
WOULD BE VERY FEW....IF ANY***

***WHAT IS MORE NATURAL AND MORE FRUITFUL THAN A SPOUSE PRAYING  
A HEALING PRAYER WITH A HEALING TOUCH WITH THEIR HUSBAND OR  
WIFE WHEN ILL....***

***OF COURSE, WE RECOMMEND THIS ALONG WITH WHATEVER IS  
MEDICALLY NECESSARY....IT IS NOT EITHER OR - IT IS BOTH AND  
BUT WE ARE MOVING FROM JUST PRAYING FOR SOMEONE TO PRAYING  
WITH SOMEONE.....WHICH CAN BE VERY HEALING, VERY COMFORTING,***

**VERY STRENGTHENING..**

**AT THE BEGINNING IT MAY BE A LITTLE AWKWARD, BUT THAT'S OK**

**LET US BEGIN**

**LET ME ASK THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE A HEALING PRAYER FOR SOME MALADY IN THEIR LIFE TO RAISE A HAND OR STAND UP...**

**LET ME ASK THOSE IN THE AREA TO STAND UP - AND EXTEND A BLESSING AND A TOUCH ON THE SHOULDER, IF THE PERSON IS COMFORTABLE WITH THAT....AND I WILL PRAY A HEALING PRAYER**

**CLOSING PRAYER FOR HEALING**

**GRACIOUS AND COMPASSIONATE GOD.....  
WE COME TOGETHER THIS MORNING...**

**RECALLING THE SPECIAL WAY YOU Poured OUT YOUR STRONG, LIFE-GIVING AND HEALING SPIRIT UPON THE ORIGINAL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ON THAT FIRST PENTECOST...**

**WE HUMBLy ASK FOR THAT SAME OUTPOURING OF THAT SAME HEALING SPIRIT THIS MORNING IN OUR MIDST, IN OUR BODIES, IN OUR HEARTS, IN OUR SOULS...**

**IN THIS QUEEN OF APOSTLES COMMUNITY**

**WE ASK THAT YOUR HEALING SPIRIT COME UPON OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE EXPRESSED A SPECIAL NEED THIS MORNING FOR YOUR RENEWING, REFRESHING AND HEALING SPIRIT....**

**COME UPON THEM WITH YOUR STRONG, PEACEFUL SPIRIT.....  
GIVE THEM STRENGTH AND PEACE AND COURAGE....  
GIVE THEM NEW HOPE, NEW COMFORT...  
HEAL THEIR WOUNDS, RENEW THEIR SPIRIT WITH YOUR SPIRIT...  
GIVE THEM WARMTH, GIVE THEM JOY**

**AS THE ORIGINAL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY PRAYED WITH MARY...  
WE TOO CALL UPON HER INTERCESSION AS YOUR MOTHER AND OUR SPIRITUAL MOTHER.....  
WE PRAY ALL OF THIS BECAUSE WE ARE BELIEVER'S IN JESUS THE RISEN CHRIST WHO IS ALSO YOUR SON...**

**WE PRAY WITH CONFIDENCE, HOPE AND THANKSGIVING.....AMEN**

