

Today we celebrate the feast of St. Rosa of Lima, the patroness of the Americas and the patron saint of this faithful institution dedicated to healing. St. Rose was blessed by the grace of God with a profound, yet humble commitment to penance and purity. In her own words we are reminded of the mission of this institution built on a foundation of faith and mercy.

***“When we serve the poor and sick we serve Jesus. We must not fail to help our neighbors, because in them we serve Jesus.”***

In the heavenly glow of St. Rose holiness we gather today to celebrate Christus Santa Rosa Medical Center’s 30 years of service to the poor and the sick respecting their worth and dignity, and always faithful to your mission: “To extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ”

In this morning’s gospel, we read how essential healing was to Jesus’ ministry on earth. What a loving and wonderful picture, “They placed them at his feet, and he cured them.” There was no fanfare or flourish, just the merciful fruits of Jesus’ love. The crowds were amazed to hear the mute speak, the deformed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind able to see.

The God given knowledge and gifts that are reflected in the work of the women and men of this place are also a source of medical miracles and spiritual healing. The compassion and mercy shown to the suffering souls who come here for healing are the real signs of Christ’s presence here. The sign on the outside of the building is only visible symbol that this is a place of God’s mercy, the sometimes invisible evidence of that mercy are the values that guide your loving care of the sick and suffering who have been placed in your hands for healing.

Each day you are blessed by the hope and promise of modern medicine, while you also face the challenge of its limits to take the pain and suffering away from your patients. However, in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians we are reminded not place our faith in only what we can see, but to place our faith in the eternal unseen. St. Paul tells you not to be discouraged, but know that Jesus' healing of the soul can come from the kindness of encouragement, the power of the momentary prayer, or the solace of a silent touch. Each may be invisible, but can heal both you and those you serve. In this way you continue the prayerful and practical legacy of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word that we celebrate today.

In Isaiah's prophetic voice we discover that God cares about our physical needs as well as our spiritual healing; to give those we serve "the oil of gladness instead of mourning."

On the "World Day of the Sick", Pope Francis asked Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, to strengthen us with the Grace of God and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. "Grant us a readiness to serve those in need, and in particular our infirm brothers and sisters. At times this service can be burdensome, yet we are certain that the Lord will surely turn our human efforts into something divine. We too can be hands, arms and hearts which help God to perform his miracles, so often hidden."

On this very special moment of grace, we celebrate 30 years of living history of the people who have served the sick and suffering that have been brought to you. May we always be blessed by your good work and abiding faith as true missionaries of mercy. St. Rose of Lima... patroness of loving sacrifice....Pray for us.