

Fr. Swink's Homily

Healing Mass 4-10-2025

Disclaimer: We recreated Fr. Swink's homily as best as we could from his brief notes.

Fr. Swink began his homily talking about Marian Frentz and how she began the TASTE Program and how it has produced much fruits, which are evident in this very healing mass with relics. He knows many of the TASTE women and recognizes the spiritual growth it fosters.

Beliefs and doctrines concerning salvation...

Salvation means: "**salvation**" often encompasses "**healing**," both physically and spiritually, as the Greek word "sozo" translated as "save" also means "**to heal, make whole, and deliver**"

God is inviting us today and every day the chance to heal...
Yet healing is needed not only in our Body, but in our mind and soul...

Where do we need healing? What is the **ultimate healing** and when will it happen? In **Heaven**

Jesus said to the Jews: "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever keeps my word will never see death." We need to **know** His word and **keep** His word.

Fr. Swink reminded us that Jesus offers us an invitation, but it is up to us to RSVP.
So how do we RSVP? What does it look like?

R = Repentance / Reconciliation / Restoration

Jesus' first homily: After Jesus' baptism and temptation, His first words of public proclamation (Matthew 4:17) are: "**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven has drawn near!"

John the Baptist had been saying the same thing (Matthew 3:2), verbatim, in his first recorded words in Matthew: "**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven has drawn near!"

Perhaps the most remarkable teaching that our Lord gave to St. Faustina about this sacrament is found in Diary entry 1448. Jesus said to her:

Write, speak of My mercy. Tell souls where they are to look for solace, that is, in the Tribunal of Mercy [the Sacrament of **Reconciliation**].

There the greatest miracles take place [and] are incessantly repeated.

To avail oneself of this miracle, it is not necessary to go on a great pilgrimage, or to carry out some external ceremony; it suffices to come with faith to the feet of My representative and to reveal to Him one's misery, and the miracle of Divine Mercy will be fully demonstrated.

Were souls like a decaying corpse so that from a human standpoint there would be no [hope of] restoration and everything would already be lost, it is not so with God. The miracle of Divine Mercy **restores** that soul in full.

Fr. Swink encouraged us to use the Sacrament of Reconciliation and use it often... Yet, it is also important to turn away too from **unforgiveness** in your hearts!

He talked about the impact of squashed, stuffed, buried, ignored & repressed emotions.

For people who have TMS (**The Mindbody Syndrome**) or MBS (**Mind Body Syndrome**), our built-in tendency is to repress unpleasant, painful, or embarrassing **emotions**. When we repress these emotions, our **bodies** respond to the real and perceived threats that make up our lives, even though we are not aware of all the action that is happening 'below the skin', so to speak.

Fr. Swink said that he suffered from back pain and learned from an orthopedic doctor / surgeon that when his patients dealt with their **psychologically or spiritually** issues, the patient's **bodily** problems were also relieved. Going to Confession can help us to deal with the issues in our **Mind** and then perhaps help us heal our **Body** too.

If the poor world could see the beauty of the sinless soul, all sinners, all unbelievers would be instantly converted. ~ St. Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)

S = Sing God's praises in Mass!

Today, we come to Mass, which is the ultimate source of spiritual healing..

Jesus said "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

At Mass, healing occurs through the Holy Eucharist, prayer, and the power of the Holy Spirit. This healing encompasses our physical, spiritual, emotional, and relational well-being.

But, we need to participate. Our healing depends on how we approach Jesus...

THE STORY OF A MOUSE

Fr. Swink shared a story to highlight the power of the Eucharist. If a mouse climbed up onto the altar right after the words of consecration, took a consecrated host into his mouth, ran down behind the presider's chair, and consumed it, would the mouse have consumed Jesus? YES, he would have consumed the Body and Blood of Jesus!

We know that receiving a consecrated host is a deeply spiritual act that has effects on us such as: 1) bringing us in union with Christ, 2) imparting sanctifying grace, 3) offering forgiveness of venial sins, 4) providing spiritual nourishment, & 5) granting eternal life... So, when that mouse consumed Jesus, did he also receive these benefits? ... NO.

Why not? ... Not only does the mouse not have a soul, but sadly, like 70% of Catholics, when he approached Jesus on the altar and consumed the host, he did not believe the consecrated Host was in fact Jesus. ... So, do you want to be a Mouse or a Man?

V = Visit God in Prayer...

Jesus will and always answers **Prayer**... We need to trust!

Luke 11:5-13 - Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him. And suppose the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your persistence [shameless audacity], he will surely get up and give you as much as you need..."

We need to **be shameless when we pray**...like a little child! Remember: Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened.

THE STORY OF A BOY AND COOKIES

A mom took her young son to the grocery store. While they were going up on down the aisles, they passed all kinds of cookies. The little boy asked his mom if they could get some cookies. The mom said no and that she would provide something more nourishing for dessert. As they continued their shopping, there were more cookies prominently placed on an end-cap attracting the customers to buy them. Again, the little boy begged his mom for those delicious cookies saying they were his favorites. Once again, the mom said no. Finally, they got into the checkout line and what just happened to be there at that little boy's eye level? ...You guessed it — cookies! In desperation, the little boy said, "In the name of Jesus, could we please have some cookies?" Just then, all of the grandmas who witnessed his plea bought him cookies!

So what does this story tell us? It tells us that we need to be shameless when we pray. Jesus will always answer our prayers [within His will and at His perfect time] and we just need to trust Him. He knows what we want, but He wants us to come to Him in prayer and ask for our needs. He is the good Father who wants to give us all kinds of blessings.

P = Persevere...

God tells Abraham that he will be a Father of many nations...and Abraham will go up and down in his faith, but he will get a son Isaac...

We need to remember that Abraham was ~100 years old and his wife Sarah was ~90 years old when God made this promise. Obviously, it was long after her menopause and thus long after her natural ability to conceive a child. However, we know that God kept all of His promises to Abraham to include having many descendants, becoming a great nation, and possessing land.

Hebrews 10:36 states, "You need to **persevere** so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what is promised."

THE STORY OF ARMAND

There was the most loving father who always told his son how much he loved him and that he would always be with him. He repeated this day after day and this became his mantra. Then one day, there was a terrible earthquake at the boy's school and the whole building came crashing down. Since his father had just dropped him off, he was still close by and rushed back to save his son. Initially, the emergency responders would not let him come close to the building and they told him there would be no survivors. But, his father **preserved**, saying that he needed to try to save his son. The emergency responders ultimately let him in although they expected all of his efforts to be futile. With his bare hands, this father removed all kinds of rubble as he diligently looked for his son. Hours went by with no result — 2 hours, 6 hours, 12 hours. By this point, the man's hands were bloody, but he did not give up. He continued for 30 hours, when suddenly, he saw his little boy under a plank of wood with six other children who were all still alive. The little boy, who never doubted that his father would find him, hugged his father tightly. Then, he looked at the other 6 children who thought they were going to die in the debris of the earthquake and he said to them, "I told you that my father would come to save us because he promised he would never leave me!"

So, in thinking about this story, let us remember to always **persevere** in faith like this father did. Also, consider if we act like the little boy who loved and trusted in his father. Remember that Jesus promised He would never to leave us. Finally, do we recognize that our God never gives up on us and that Jesus' Hands were also bloody as He suffered to save us. This is how much we are loved and this is who wants to heal us!

In summary, do not give up!

Healing and salvation are coming!

NOTE: We regret that we did not video tape Fr. Swink's homily. He really knocked it out of the park! While this summary can not fully capture his amazing and inspiring message to all of us, we hope it offers a glimpse into his message for those who were not there and a reminder of his message for those who were in attendance.