

In today's Gospel reading from the eighth chapter of Matthew, we hear about the centurion's appeal to Jesus on behalf of his paralyzed servant. From this chapter in Matthew, we are given these words "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."

These words, now enshrined in our Eucharist, are one of my favorite parts of Mass. The mere recitation of those words provides great comfort to my soul. Without a shadow of doubt, Jesus knows all of my faults and failings, yet ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS makes available His unending grace and mercy to me.

The centurion took orders from his earthly superiors and served as the leader for the men who served under his command; however, he recognized the true king and his faith did not waiver. His faithfulness resulted in healing. That is the kind of Faith we strive to have.

As the years of our lives slip past us, so have opportunities to recognize the love Jesus has for us. Starting now, let us begin anew to listen to the whisperings of the Holy Spirit and seize the opportunities to move those whisperings into action,let us show others the mercy that Jesus shows us,let's continue to discover and enhance our relationship with Jesus Christ ,..... to walk willingly and lovingly hand in hand while following Himand then take the bold step of sharing Christ's love with others.

During this Advent season, let us encourage each other to deepen our resolve to draw near to Jesus.... let us open our hearts to celebrating his merciful love and receive the ultimate gifts, ... the gift of His Holy Spirit the gift of healing the gift of Eternal life.

May you have a blessed Advent.