

As a good physician



How would you recognise a **good physician**? Very simple: someone who is able to go to the root of your illness.

Man and woman have been infected by a terrible illness, called original sin.

Its symptoms are: 'desire to control', 'distrust', 'wanting to be first', 'insatiable need for love', 'self-centredness'. We learn to carry on with our life, yet our spirit gets more and more sick, and we become more and more unhappy.

We need a physician, a **good one**! When Christ took our human nature, in order to heal it, he knew he had to go to the root of our sinful nature.

It was through disobedience that sin had crept in, and obedience had to be restored before anything else if the seed of sin had to be eradicated.

The root of sin is disobedience; therefore, our Lord's first duty, as a good physician, had to be cutting out sin at its root, so that the surface of our wound may feel the healing effect of its medicine.

It would have been fruitless to heal a wound while leaving untouched the germ of its infection; it would have got worse. What benefit from the forgiveness of sins, if the inner root of evil would have remained untouched? It would be like stitching a deep wound without having healed it first.

"All of us", said Pope Francis on Ash Wednesday, "have spiritual illnesses we cannot heal on our own; all of us have deep-seated vices we cannot uproot alone; all of us have paralyzing fears we cannot overcome alone. **We need the healing of Jesus**, we need to present our wounds to him and say: "Jesus, I am in your presence, with my sin, with my sorrows. **You are the physician**. You can set me free. Heal my heart".

In manus.

Father Ivano