



WEEKLY LETTER FROM MONSIGNOR KEN

September 28, 2025

It's a miracle! Every Friday at 7:00pm, we have our Emmaus Young Adult Bible Study. A group of young men and women gather in the Charlie Kiger Conference Room (upstairs in the rectory office) to discuss the readings for the upcoming Sunday. When I can, I join them. It is always an inspiring and enjoyable exchange.

This past Friday I did not attend because I was at the Designer Bag Bingo in the Parish Center sponsored by Interfaith. I'm on the board, so I had better be there! Later in the evening I missed a call from Felicia who coordinates the Emmaus group. I listened to my voicemail. The message asked if I was around and planning to stop. Then, came the words, "We're witnessing a miracle!"

What was the miracle? As soon as I received the message, I called. One of the young men who had attended in the past but had not been for quite some time, Julian, was there. What's so special about that? It's a long story, but he has suffered with a debilitating form of auto-immune disease. Of late, he has been virtually confined to bed, not able to leave the house. I have brought him Communion many times, and his condition remained unchanged, stubbornly resisting a clear diagnosis or plan of treatment. Julian was extremely limited in what he could do, even simple tasks causing discomfort and even pain. About two weeks ago, he was rushed to the hospital because his mother found him in bed and unresponsive. She could not wake him. In the ER, they did multiple tests, and, mysteriously, his vitals were fine. It was not clear what was happening. He was kept overnight, and finally "woke up" the next morning. He remained in the hospital for another day, and then was released, with no clear explanation. The best guess was a reaction to a UTI. He went home, at least awake and feeling better, but essentially in the same condition in which he has been.

Then, a few days ago, his aunt, an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, brought him Communion. After receiving, Julian felt the Lord tell him that he was healed, and to get up and walk. Incredibly, he did, slowly at first and then able to move more freely! He hasn't done that for close to two years! He enthusiastically claimed a healing, and that night, his family brought him to the Adoration Chapel. He not only walked, but prostrated himself before the Blessed Sacrament! All of that physical activity, getting out of bed, leaving the house, going in the car, walking to the chapel, prostrating before the Lord, was impossible for him—before. I was joyfully stunned and elated when I received that call last Friday. He was talking to me from upstairs in the rectory, gleefully relating the miraculous sequence of events. I had chills. The next morning, he and his family were at the 8:00am Mass. I had him stand up in the pew before everyone, and there was a joyful round of applause. Many, many people have been praying for him. In particular the Betania III community has been praying. And recently, Fr. Pio Mandata stopped to visit Julian when he was here for the Healing Mass in August, and prayed with him. So, what happened? How is this possible? I don't know. For me, no explanation is necessary, but only to praise God.

Just a few weeks ago, the Church officially canonized Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati. To be declared a saint, the Church has a very rigorous process to approve a miracle. Similarly, 60 Minutes recently had a segment on Lourdes. They documented the strict process to accept a cure attributed to that shrine as an actual miracle. However, not all miracles undergo, nor need they, that important procedure. In truth, every day, God works wonders, from a beautiful sunset, to the healing of a relationship, and countless stories of physical healings, including a young man who was bedridden, had great faith, and received many prayers, who now can walk. I know. I saw him before....and after. Something happened. It is real! The only true response to such incredible acts of God, is humble gratitude. Praise God!

"But Peter looked intently at him as did John, and said, 'Look at us.' He paid attention to them, expecting to receive something from them. Peter said, 'I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, rise and walk.' Then Peter took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles grew strong. He leaped up, stood, and walked around, and went into the temple with them, walking, and jumping and praising God." (Acts 3:4-8)