

JANUARY 15, 2021  
Friday of the 1<sup>st</sup> Week in OT  
Mark 2: 1-12

“BRING OTHERS TO JESUS.”

Friends are those people who are always at your side when you needed them. They will be with you through thick and thin, at your worse or at your best. They will never abandon you because they love you and care for you. These are the kind of friends that the paralytic has. They carried and brought the paralytic to Jesus for healing for their friend. The crowded people were not a hindrance for these kind and loving friends, they had only one intention: to bring their friend to Jesus so that their friends will be healed as indicated in our gospel: “And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay.”<sup>1</sup> When Jesus saw their faith, He praised them and healed the paralytic man not only physically but spiritually. The man has no strength and capacity to be physically present to Jesus without the help of his friends. These four friends were instrument of kindness and Jesus love that kind of attitude. By that, the man was healed, and his friends were the channel of that healing. The Lord is also asking us to do the same with our family, relatives, and friends. We need to be their strength for them to get up, face again challenges in life, and move on to become better. “More often we may find ourselves like the four friends in the gospel, in a position to bring others back on their feet, to help them from darkness to light. We need to carry each other’s burdens. When we are faithful to that calling, we are following him who said, ‘Come to me all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest.’ The Lord looks to us to help him to carry the burdens of others and to bring them to a greater fullness of life.”<sup>2</sup> So, my brothers and sisters, are you like the four friends of the paralytic man who carry other people when they needed you? Are you willing to help those who are paralytic, helpless, abandon, neglected, hopeless, and no strength because of the heavy burdens in their lives? Let us help, care, and love one another and be instruments of healing for others. My friends, let us bring others to Jesus.

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<sup>1</sup> Mark 2: 4 NRSV Catholic Bible Press USA

<sup>2</sup> [www.associationofcatholicpriests.ie](http://www.associationofcatholicpriests.ie)