

*Do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.*

Isaiah 41:10

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

When we pause with the desire to be restored in our relationship with God, ourselves and others—even though we may not know exactly how—we give God the opportunity to meet us. We have a loving God who always walks with us and never abandons us, and it is in seeking to be one with God that God always surprises us.

In a recent encounter with God's holy presence, I was attending a service of laying on of hands and anointing for healing. It was a powerful experience, as I was in my own desert fighting my own wild beasts.

As I approached the priest, I didn't know what to expect. When the priest made the sign of the cross on my forehead with holy oil and prayed for me, I was totally surprised.

As a priest myself, I realized that I too have been called to be an instrument of healing to God's people. I discovered God's divine presence of healing and forgiveness. In that moment of the service, I felt I was restored to wholeness and was one with God.

I would like to invite you to try the same: to surrender to being surprised by God's divine presence of healing and forgiveness. Our loving God, I believe, wants to be in relationship with you also.

—Alfredo Feregrino