

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Recently, I saw a feature story on WKBT, Channel 8 in La Crosse, about Mayo Clinic's "Healing Reflections Mobile Mural." The mural is a collection of paintings developed by artists that is circulating to Mayo Clinic settings throughout Northwestern Wisconsin.

Per the video, "An introduction to the Healing Reflections mural wall," on YouTube.com, we hear about the process that was used to create the mural. First, stories were collected from Mayo Clinic Health System employees. Next, each selected artist was given three stories to choose from in order to recreate one or more through their artwork. The completed artwork was then assembled into a portable mural wall.

According to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Foundation website, the following themes are featured in the mural wall: healing, resilience, inclusion, diversity, hope and economic hardship. These themes seemed to me, to encapsulate themes that relate to this time of the pandemic.

As more persons get vaccinated, and we move into a new phase in our recovery from the pandemic, these themes are ones that we will remember. In fact, many of us could write stories and create our own artwork, as well, using these pandemic-related themes. Perhaps some of you will decide to do so. If so, please feel free to share them with us.

As Christian believers, as we look to the meaning behind these themes, may we be reminded of our baptismal vows to work for justice and peace. This we can do, by offering **healing, hope, and economic opportunities** to people of **diverse** groups, as they seek **inclusion** and **resilience** in a hurting world. Let us reflect on these themes, as we serve God and humankind. Thanks be to God.

Peace,

Pastor Cathy