

Thirteenth Sunday in ordinary time

One Sunday at Mass as the priest was giving his homily, a little baby in the front row suddenly started crying loudly. The mother did her best to pacify the child, but nothing worked. So finally, she got up and started to walk down the aisle to take the baby into the cry room. The priest stopped his preaching, and very compassionately called out to the mother, "That's OK! You don't have to leave. The child isn't disturbing me." The young woman turned around and said, "No, pardon me Father, but you're disturbing my child!"

Dear Friends,

This week we would like to call this as community Sunday where we come back to normal in our activities of the church after a long period of time. There are no major changes in our faith activities, rather we had to protect the safety of everyone who came to the Eucharist. So we changed some of our practices. It was a tough challenge for everyone especially to me when people ask so many questions. I tried my best with the consultation of our leadership team to answer and take some steps to modify things slowly and steadily. It is because of the safety of the parishioners and community. However, it has come to normal, still I have not seen some of the faces on the weekends.

We all care for our health and life. As we are in this world, we want to be healthy and safe. The readings today help us to pray about God's concerns about our life. In the first reading from book of wisdom, we read that God did not make death nor does he rejoice in the destruction of the living. As human beings were created in the image and likeness of God, we are incorruptible. God gives life to us.

The gospel today gives two miracles with two beneficiaries of different nature. But both have similar numbers. Daughter of Jairus's age is 12. The women with hemorrhage suffered for 12 years. One believed in Jesus's touch. Another believed in touching Jesus's garments. Mark tells the stories. He doesn't explain anything. The main theme is to have faith in God and in Jesus and in each other.

The contrasts between Jairus and the woman with the hemorrhage are stark and revealing. One is a man, the other is a woman. One is a public official, an important person in the community. The other is a woman who has lost everything to find a cure to a condition that separated her from the community. One approaches Jesus publicly. The other approaches Jesus secretly. Yet in each case, faith leads them to seek out Jesus in their time of need.

Jesus appreciates the attitude of their faith. They both believed in Jesus. In our ordinary life, we seek God when we are desperate or when we feel unable. God proves himself that he takes care of us. He said to Jairus not to be afraid. He says the same thing to us not to be afraid. You cannot lock yourself up. You were never meant to be alone. You were meant to be with others. And this is what God teaches. God knows our needs. God loves us. God loves us means He's vulnerable. God wants our companionship. He doesn't... He would never turn a human being away from Him.