Today we celebrate the 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time. We all experience imperfection, brokenness, temptation and sin. But it was not God’s original plan. We know that God had a wonderful plan, God created everything good. The book of Genesis tells us everything has change with the first sin of Adam and Eve, and that affected everything.

But God can turn everything to good, and Jesus is the solution to our imperfection, brokenness, temptation and sin. Jesus wants to lift us up from imperfection, brokenness, temptation and sin, not only in the next life but right now. Jesus wants us to have the fullness of his life now, and this is exactly what we see happening in today’s Gospel.

Jairus’ daughter died and Jesus raised her to life again. The woman hemorrhaging blood for twelve years was cured when she touched Jesus’ cloak. In these miracles Jesus is teaching us. He wants us to enjoy his life now, not to wait until eternal life but to enjoy his life now.

Jesus said to the woman healed of hemorrhaging, “your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction.”

In the house of Jairus Jesus said the child was not dead but asleep. Jesus said to her, “Little girl, I tell you, arise.”

Jesus says to each of us, “Don’t go through life asleep, arise.” We see something in common in both miracles; someone went to Jesus in faith, the little girl’s father and the hemorrhaging woman.

If you have problems go to Jesus with faith. Don’t stay where you are, get up and go to Jesus. Like Jairus and like the ill woman, go to Jesus. How can we go to Jesus? We can go to Jesus by praying to him. Spend time every day in prayer with Jesus. Read the Bible. The Bible is a love letter from God to you. If you want to know what God thinks, read the Bible. You can also go to Jesus by receiving the sacraments. When you receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist you meet Jesus.

In the past the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick was given when somebody was dying and was called the Last Rites. Now anyone who is seriously ill can request to receive the Sacrament of the Sick. Let us strengthen our faith in the power of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick to heal. Jesus is waiting in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick to pick us up after we have been knocked down by sickness.

We all have crosses to carry. We all experience imperfection, brokenness, temptation and sin. Jesus wants to raise us up. Go to Jesus in prayer every day, reading the Bible, receiving the sacraments. Remember, as a sacrament, it is Christ who is touching us, the same Christ who touches us with his love in Holy Communion.
FR. JAYKE THANK FOR ALL THE GOOD WORK YOU HAVE DONE AT OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAIN CHURCH AND ST. MARK’S. GOD BLESS YOU. WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU ALL THE BEST.

I know that all of our parishioners join me in wishing Father Jayke well in his new assignment at Saint Pius X in Montville that we accompany him with our prayers!

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WEEK 2021: SOLIDARITY IN FREEDOM

In these days before the Fourth of July, our bishops have asked to pray, study and thank God for the gift of freedom - mostly religious freedom,

People of faith are committed to serving others in God’s love in healthcare, child welfare, migration and refugee resettlement, education, and more. Religious freedom protects the space in which we can continue to Join Catholics across the country to pray and act for the freedom to serve faithfully and with integrity.

“Solidarity means much more than engaging in sporadic acts of generosity. It means thinking and acting in terms of community”. Religious freedom allows the Church, and all religious communities, to live out their faith in public and to serve the good of all.

“The Second Vatican Council gave the world, ‘Dignitatis Humanae,’ a document that explains why religious freedom is important. First, it speaks against government coercion. It makes an even more important point that the right to religious freedom has its foundation in the inherent dignity of each person; and that each person, endowed with reason and free will, is impelled by their nature and bound by a moral obligation to seek the Truth—especially the truth about religion.

True freedom is the power and right to do that which is right and good and is an essential requirement of human dignity. Regarding freedom, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states, “Freedom is the power, rooted in reason and will, to act or not to act, to do this or that, and so to perform deliberate actions on one’s own responsibility. By free will one shapes one’s own life. Human freedom is a force for growth and maturity in truth and goodness; it attains its perfection when directed toward God, our beatitude” (CCC, 1731).

“For freedom Christ set us free; so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery. . . For you were called for freedom, brothers. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love” (Galatians 5:1, 13).

As we reflect on religious liberty in our country, perhaps it is also wise to consider the Declaration of Independence and the window it provides into the minds of our founders at the birth of our nation. The
oft recited words ring in our ears in a special way this time of year: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”