

**Fr. John Sassani**  
**Homily Given on July 2, 2006**  
**Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Liturgical Year B**

Recently I gave a retreat for deacon candidates. Over the course of the week, it was evident that they were maturing in faith. They were quite explicit in their comments. It was a silent retreat, and one of the retreatants who had never experienced this before, said "I never knew silence could be so loud." Another said, "In this time with Christ I met him like I never did in the past." Someone else commented on the other retreatants, "They helped me identify my desire and act on that desire."

In the Gospel today, we see two people mature in faith. Jairus knows Jesus, or at least knows of him. The woman with hemorrhage knows of him as well. She is willing, or perhaps wanting, to keep it a faceless, nameless relationship. She approaches Him discreetly, anonymously in the crowd. Jesus feels the healing power go out of him. He is not content with that. He wants a relationship with her. Her physical condition is cured but her ultimate healing depends on that relationship.

Jairus has asked Jesus to cure his daughter, but after the tragic news arrives of her death, Jairus's companions see Jesus's involvement as pointless. Jairus is ready to give in to the voices of his friends and the voice in his head: it is pointless. Jesus recognizes the onslaught of hopelessness. "Do not be afraid. Believe." The miracle happens before Jairus's eyes and in his heart. "This man has saved my daughter. This man is no mere man."

Life changed that day for the woman and for Jairus at every level, but particularly in their relationship with Jesus. It changed, deepened, grew, matured. Their experience challenges us – like the deacons were challenged – I want what they have – with implications for prayer and action.

Christ wants to fulfill our longing for more. We may want to touch Him anonymously. We may get to a point of hopelessness even regarding our trust in Him. He comes in the Eucharist to have an intimate encounter in our hearts. This is no drive-by encounter. He comes as our real hope in the face of hopeless times. He calls us to live in that deepened relationship so that -- when people say "I want what you have" – from a maturity that is His gift to us, we can offer Christ to them in word and deed.