

2021 June 27

**Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Reading:**

**First:** Wisdom 1.13-15, 2.23-24, "God created man for incorruption." (2.23a)

**The Psalm:** 30, "You have turned my mourning into dancing." (11)

**Second:** 2 Corinthians 8.7-9, 13-15, "We want you to excel also in this generous undertaking." (7b)

**The Gospel:** Mark 5.21-43, "Your faith has made you well; go in peace." (34)

**Faith heals and revives**

There are healings God alone can do. The only medication to be applied for it is faith. In the healing incident of the daughter of Jairus the father prays Jesus to go with him and lay his hand on the child. He believed that a touch of Jesus would heal his child. The woman with the hemorrhage believed that if she could even touch on the fringe of his cloth she would be healed. These are examples of real faith. God makes special interventions in the dire necessities of humans. God can, and is willing, to do it.

He sometimes waits till all human remedies are exhausted. Every human remedy is again the applying of the talents given to humans by the creator, and it is his wish we apply them to the limits of their possibilities. This application of the available remedies is the will and design of God. This is part of the wholesome generative forces of God's creation as highlighted by the Wisdom literature today. When God given human capabilities reach their limits, the creator God, the giver of these skills, is there waiting to give us a lift. He is always willing to lift us up.

Today's Wisdom reading clearly tells that God does not delight in the death of the living. We humans need deep faith in him, in his power to which he responds at our cry. This faith means the conviction of the supplicant that God alone has a solution for it, and that God would definitely do this to him/her. This faith is power. Jairus and the woman had this powerful faith and conviction, and they got what they needed.

Faith, hope and love are said to be divine virtues and are gifts from God. At the same time knowledge of God or knowing God and God's infinite power can lead us to these divine virtues. In the process of attaining this knowledge of God there may be confusion and frustration, prompting humans to reject and run away from God, feeling a sense of loss. If we can learn and keep the awareness that these can happen in our life, that failures do happen in life, which may not be the end of life, that failures could be the stepping stones or pointers to success, we may not easily let go of our reliance on God. We must position God not in front or behind our failures or successes, but behind and in front of US! It is salutary to remember the words of Job to his wife, "*You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?*" (Job.2.10) God never ever abandons us; he never runs away from us. Even when we run away from him he is after us to console, comfort, lift us up, and heal. *Praise be to Him, and Holy be his Name, Amen!*

Fr. George

