

## Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2018

My beloved brothers and sisters, Jairus, the synagogue official, had just received the worst news a parent could ever receive: "Your daughter has died." With those four words, his hope disappeared like a puff of smoke in the wind. It is one of the greatest experiences of anguish the human heart can experience- the ripping and tearing of death. It feels like the gates of hell have just closed on our heart, and yet, it precisely at this point that Jesus tells him and us: "Do not be afraid, but only have faith." That almost sounds heartless, and it would if Jesus were not whom He claims to be: God in the flesh. Jesus tells him and us, that in the face of all of the worlds evil, and in the face of death itself, in the face of all of the storms of life in this fallen world, He who is God's presence will make all things well, will make all things right!

You may say: "But father, I prayed for my husband/ my wife, my child. Why didn't God hear my prayer?" He did! It is our faith that tells us that all of the tragedies of sin, suffering and death, are not useless suffering and undiminished anguish. Jesus has conquered the forces of evil and death in the world and in our lives by His own suffering, death and resurrection. If there was no resurrection, no Eucharist, we would indeed be the most to be pitied for we would only be teasing ourselves with hope against hope!

It was faith that brought Jairus to his knees before Jesus and his faith in Jesus that raised the young girl back to life. It was faith in Jesus that brought the woman with the flow of blood to touch His cloak and be healed after a dozen years of suffering. And although we may not see the effects of faith in this life, we will see the effects of faith in our eternal life with God; for each of these who were cured, still had to go through the passage of death. It is our faith in Jesus that makes all of the difference! It is our incorporation into His life and death, that incorporates us into His Eternal life! When we put our faith and trust in Jesus, we are placing ourselves and those we love into the strongest hands, who will never drop us!

Pope Benedict reminds us: "(after Pentecost), the disciples and Apostles had no fear, because they experienced that they were in stronger hands (than death). Where the Spirit of God lives, He chases out fear; He makes us know and feel that

we are in the hands of an Omnipotence of love: whatever happens, His infinite love will never abandon us..." Let us pray in this Mass: Send forth your Spirit O Lord, and renew the face of the earth!