

## BILINGUAL REFLECTIONS FOR SUNDAY

13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) Mark 5: 21-43

July 1, 2018

“Our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed death and brought life to light through the Gospel.”

Any serious and responsible person who is ready to assume his job, for instance, a teacher in front of his class, a judge during court trial, a doctor operating his patient, a priest celebrating the sacraments, turn their mobile off and do not want to be disturbed whatsoever.

Jesus is a very sensitive person and loves people with a human heart. He sympathizes with the sick, the sinner, and the needy. Once, when he was ready to start his ministry of teaching and preaching for a large crowd, he is interrupted twice; first by “One of the synagogue officials, named Jairus who came forward. Seeing him he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him, saying, ‘My daughter is at the point of death. Please, lay your hands on her that she may get well and live.’” Then when he is on his way to heal the girl he is again interrupted by a woman from the crowd “Who was afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years.”

To both “disruptive” persons Jesus shows a tender gesture of compassion. To the sick woman he says, “Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction.” To the synagogue official he says, “Do not be afraid, just have faith (...) The child is not dead but asleep.” Finally to the twelve year old, he says, “Little girl, I say to you,

arise!”

Then he commanded that she should be given something to eat. Jesus does not make distinctions of people. He listens and cares for the adult and the children, the rich and the poor: Jairus is an important synagogue official and the sick woman is a poor shy widow. He takes the child by the hand, and even though she is already dead, he talks to her, “Talitha kum (Little girl, I say to you, arise).”

What a beautiful story about Jesus’ tenderness and compassion Mark tells us today in his Gospel. The worst thing is about to happen to the twelve year old daughter of this concerned synagogue official; the child is dying. Jairus begs for help, and Jesus is willing to go and save the life of his girl. In the meantime another person needs Jesus’ help, a lady with the hemorrhage had thought, “If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured” This woman has put her last hope in him. The Pharisees would consider this woman impure and so would be anyone who touched her. But Jesus does not care. For him the person is more important than the prohibition. The end of this story is even kinder. After raising the girl up and giving her back alive to her parents, he asks them to give her something to eat.

In the Old Testament the prophets had also healed many sick people and they even had raised the dead. But these healings and raisings were temporarily, in an earthly existence only. There is something more amazing; with Christ these miraculous actions are signs of something far more wonderful: Jesus not only restores health and life, but gives eternal life. But as in the case of the synagogue official, and the sick woman, we must be humble men and women of faith. Through the sacrament of the Eucharist we unite in the death and resurrection of Christ. He states: “I am the Resurrection and the life.” Jesus will raise those who believe in him, and who eat his body and drink his blood.

In telling the girl’s parents that they should give her something to eat, Jesus is telling us the Church that we should minister those who are in need, especially through the sacraments of healing (baptism, penance, and anointing of the sick), and the sacrament of nourishment (Eucharist), as well with other assistance. We, the Church are given the example by Jesus to serve all people, on regardless of an economic or social position.