**07-01-18**

**Homily Jairus’ Daughter**

In our Gospel, Mark started with the story of Jairus the synagogue official whose daughter was dying. In the middle of it, we are introduced to a different story of a woman afflicted with hemorrhage for twelve years. Both stories expressed the teachings of Jesus about us having faith in God.

The Gospel of Mark is characterized by sandwiching that is, there is a story within a story! I am sure many of us like peanut butter sandwich. When you take two slices of bread and then use peanut butter, jelly and lunch meat, to make a sandwich you know how good that would taste! You know the peanut butter-jelly and lunch meat would make the bread taste a lot sweeter. Mark’s sandwiching of the story of Jairus’ daughter by using the story of the woman with the hemorrhage is like making peanut butter sandwich.

You see this woman had gone to several doctors who abused her by their promise of healing. She paid lots of money until she was left with nothing. She was probably a meal ticket for different doctors at one time or another. She depended on secular means of healing until she heard about Jesus and decided she had to have an encounter with Him. She had faith in Him, and believed in Him even though she had not met Him. There was no doubt in her mind that she would be cured.

We too have faith in Jesus even though we have not seen Him physically. That is why we are here today at Mass to receive His body and blood.

Her encounter with Jesus did not just get her cured, Jesus told her in this order, **“Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction.”** This is what Jesus wants form each and every one of us. If we have faith in Him, we will be saved, have peace, and be cured of our afflictions.

As we heard in the first reading, we create our own unhappiness by refusing to trust or have faith in what God has spoken to us through His Son Jesus Christ. Jesus wants to rock us safely to His Father’s house especially during troubled waters of our lives. Jesus is the way the truth and the life. We just have to truly believe in what He passed on through His Apostles who passed them on to His Church.

Jairus had faith in Jesus but his faith is a little different from that of the woman who touched our Lord’s garment. First Jairus trusted in the healing power of Jesus and he came to ask Him to come and cure his dying daughter. But when he was told his daughter had died, he did not have enough faith that Jesus could do anything even raise his daughter from the hands of death. The woman on the other hand had faith in Jesus that He would cure her if only she could touch His garment. She could not ask Him for healing because she thought she was not worthy to ask.

Having faith in God is doing the will of God. So our first task is to know the will of God. When is a child your child? It is when the child does what the parent ask. If a child is always a rebel then the child is not your daughter or your son. Obedience is a product of faith. It is when we are obedient to God that we are His children.

The Gospel messages are about events that personally touch all of our lives at one time or another, events that frighten us; it could be illness that has no cure or illnesses that are not physical but emotional or death especially of a young person. Jesus came to tell us “do not be afraid, just have faith.” Jesus says to all who believe and follow Him, just as He said of Jairus’ daughter, death is like falling asleep. For those who believe in Him, even if we die, He will raise us up. Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Jesus is in our midst today. He is in our neighbor seating next to us as we are gathered here to pray the greatest prayer to God, as we have heard His word, and we are getting ready to receive His Body and Blood in the Eucharist, Jesus tells us we have faith in Him when we do His will.