

Homily of the 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B (July 1, 2018)

The first reading states that God is the author of life but through sin death entered the world. That is why St. Paul writes in Romans 6:23, "The wages of sin is death." The first reading says, "God did not make death, nor does he rejoice in the destruction of the living." This is why the Catholic Church remains unwavering in her teaching concerning sacredness of human life from conception. The Church teaches that every human being, including the unborn, should be treated with respect and dignity. Unfortunately, violence, destruction of life and disrespect for life are a common occurrence everywhere. Unfortunately, too, this culture of destruction and death is being promoted in our society for commercial, political and economic gains.

Jesus, in the Gospel of today, shows that he came that we may have life and have it more abundantly (John 10:10). The woman that was afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years wanted her life back. She spent all that she had and suffered greatly at the hands of many doctors. She got her life back when she encountered Jesus. Jesus also brought Jairus' daughter back to life. Jairus was not a follower of Jesus. He was a synagogue official. Yet, he came to Jesus to seek life for his daughter.

What do we learn from God's words today?

First, every human life is sacred, and all human being should be treated with respect and dignity. The right to life at all levels is from God.

Second, as Christians and followers of Jesus, we are to continue the good works of Jesus. We are called to be life giving to one another. So that, as the second reading states, "Whoever had much did not have more and whoever had little did not have less."

Third, we are invited to be people of faith. The faith of the woman who was afflicted with hemorrhages and the faith of Jairus whose daughter was dead should encourage us. Each of them trusted their helplessness to Jesus and Jesus granted them their desires. Jesus says to us, "Do not be afraid; just have faith."

Fourth, let us, like the woman, touch Jesus with our prayers, and not like the crowd who pressed around Jesus but did not touch him. Let us, like Jairus go to Jesus and invite him to our home.

Fifth, some of our homes are like that of Jairus, afflicted with sickness, death, commotion and weeping. Jairus was able to step out to invite Jesus to visit his home. Jesus arrived, put out the commotion and weeping, and brought the dead girl back to life. The gospel of today challenges us to do the same.

Sixth, some people tried to discourage Jairus from inviting Jesus to his home. In the same way, there may be voices that try to discourage you from trusting God. There may be frustrations that may discourage someone from moving forward. Jesus says to us, "Do not be afraid; just have faith."