

13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME OF THE YEAR
(Wisdom 1.13-15, 23-24, 2 Cor. 8.7,9,13-15, Mk. 21-43)

Theme: Let us excel in Faith and Generosity

Dear Friends in Christ. When we look at Christ's work on earth, we see in Him one who is full of love to all, compassionate to the sick, the needy, the less privileged in society, very merciful, and very generous in word and deed. And the scriptures summarized all the work of our Lord Jesus as "he went about doing good."

From the second reading today, St. Paul reminds us Christians on the need for us to excel in everything good, like our Saviour Jesus Christ in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in love, and more especially in generous acts or charity. (2Cor.8.7,9,13-15)

Paul is trying to explain to us that when we engage ourselves in these generous acts, we are continuing the generous works of our Lord Jesus Christ.

One of the things I have noticed in our Parish here, is that, you are generous, and I want you to keep it up. For some weeks pictures of children from Haiti that needed help were placed on the bulletin boards in the Foyer, and after every mass, I have noticed how happily families and individuals came lifting up those pictures as a sign of acceptance to sponsor these kids. By that very act, you have lifted up burdens from the life and families of those kids. I want you to understand that as you lift up burdens from those who are in need, the same way God is lifting up your own burdens and those of your family.

In our gospel message again today (Mk5.21-43) we see our Lord carrying out his generous and merciful act of healing again,

by lifting up the burden of sickness from the shoulders of a woman suffering from hemorrhages and the burden of death from the Family of Jairus.

In these miraculous healing, the faith of the parties involved stands out and calls for emulation from us all.

For the woman suffering from hemorrhages, when she heard about Christ, she said in her heart if only I could touch His clothes, I will be made well. And immediately she touched Jesus with faith. She got her healing.

In our lives, we need to come to God with Faith. It is not enough to come around Jesus (church), but we need to come with Faith and strong belief. It is only with Faith that we can draw power from Christ.

And for the Synagogue leader Jairus, he had that belief and Faith that Jesus had the power to heal his daughter, that was why he came to Jesus. Even when Jesus was delayed in coming by the healing of the woman with hemorrhages, and he got a message that his daughter has died, Jairus still believed that with Jesus everything is possible. He still waited on the Lord with faith, and Jesus said to him "do not fear, only believe." Later Jesus went to his house and raised his daughter to life.

Whenever we come to God with our petitions in prayers, always do so with Faith and the patience to wait on the Lord in Faith. Let us always remember that strong faith in Christ and good deeds is the road to our God. Today Christ is telling us again "Do not be afraid only believe."