

REFLECTIONS FOR 13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B.

Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24 2Cor 8:7,9,13-15 MK 5:21-43

Throughout human history, there have been human beings who convince themselves that death is the solution to our problems. That destructive way of thinking becomes even more frightening when people believe that God desires the death of someone else or something else in order for us to thrive.

Wherever that lie is told, we must learn to listen to God's truth with fresh ears. **God did not make death.** That is the very first sentence of our 1st reading from the book of Wisdom. **Our God is a God of life.**

And what do we hear? We hear that God created everything, and everything was very good.

Death enters the human experience because of our willingness to ignore God and live without God (we call that "sin"). God, nevertheless, keeps saying "yes" to life, and "no" to death.

This is what we see Jesus doing in today's Gospel reading. Every parent and grandparent will be able to identify with the synagogue official, Jairus, who approached Jesus and pleaded with Jesus saying, 'My little daughter is desperately sick. Come and lay your hands on her to make her better and save her life.'

The human condition that we all share is generally in need of healing. There is a lack of wholeness in us. It may be physical, mental, spiritual, or a combination of them all. We are often fearful, insensitive, unforgiving, vengeful, unappreciative of goodness and beauty in others or in the world of nature. Each of us knows our own weakness. And we want to be healed, made whole again.

May we ask the Lord to touch us with His healing grace to heal us, refresh us and make us whole again.

While the synagogue official was still speaking with Jesus, some people arrived from his household to tell him news he didn't want to hear - 'Your daughter is dead'. Is anything worst in the world than that? Is there anything parents fear more than that? The death of a child?

Even though Jesus has been notified of the death of the little girl and that there is no need for Him to bother any further. For them, there is nothing anyone can do now since the child has died.

Jesus, however, insisted on going and He says beautiful words to the synagogue official which we need to hear Jesus saying often in our own lives, "Do not be afraid; only have faith."

Jesus goes into the house and He brings the dead child back to life. Life is precious.

The worst human disaster can be met with courage and gallantry when we meet it with God.

The great fact of the Christian life is that what looks completely impossible with human beings, is possible with God.

Our suffering touches Jesus' heart and stirs his compassion. Jesus' one desire is always to help. The greatness of Jesus was that he was prepared to pay the price of helping others and that price was the outgoing of his very life.

We follow in Jesus' steps only when we are prepared to spend our souls and strength for others.

God did not make death as our 1st reading reminds us. **Our God is a God of life.**

We Catholics must passionately proclaim the value of the life of every child in the womb. And also proclaim the dignity of every child outside the womb. And passionately proclaim the value of every human life.

God is about life. We must, therefore, be on the side of life. We Christians must stand against a culture of death, oppose any thing that diminishes life, and promote a culture of life. We must, therefore, be on the side of life. Life must be respected and protected at every stage and in every circumstance.

We live in a society that pays lip-service to respect for life, and does not even do that much for quality of life. Jesus challenges us to create a society that values life and rescues people from all forms of death and dying.

We must never, never be afraid to do what is right, especially if the well-being of a person is at stake.

We must be good stewards for God's creation. Caring for creation is caring for life.

As Christians, in our conversations and actions, we must remember that we are called to "speak the truth in love." Always the truth. Always in love.

Because Truth without love becomes a brutal weapon. Love without truth becomes a sentimental lie.

We are called to become the people who, in word and deed, lovingly, consistently show that all of God's creation, and all of God's creatures, are precious in God's sight.

We pray for healing which will give us spiritual and physical health in every aspect of our lives, so that we may function in perfect harmony with the Will of God, with the people around us, and with the environment.

Fr Patrick