

## FROM THE DESK OF **Fr. Julius**



Brothers and Sisters; Grace and Peace!

Last week, the Gospel of St. Mark shifted our journey of faith in the Lord as he calmed the storm on the way “to the other side of the Lake.” (Mk. 4:35). Mark continues his teaching on *faith* in today’s liturgy as Jesus restored to life one of the religious leaders [Jairus’s] daughter: plus today we witness the cure of the unnamed woman with a hemorrhage who was mended through her faith in Jesus. Both healings involve physical touch, but in diverse ways, with FAITH underlying each modality of healing.

Our First Reading demonstrates how God fashions us for life “in the image of his own nature,” but Satan in his jealousy delivers death, which results from sin, that eternal separation from God. The reading also suggests that the goal of our lives on earth is to know, love, and serve God here, and if we be virtuous in body and soul, to share God’s immortal life forever. In the Second Reading, St. Paul asks the Church in Corinth to show equality towards the Jewish community in Jerusalem during a famine, with the solidarity of compassion much like our Lord conveys in His healing ministry.

In the Gospel, Mark depicts two of our Lord’s health-restoring miracles, a daughter centered in affluent Jewish society, and a woman on the periphery of society. They demonstrate Jesus’ desire for all people to find full life in Him. They reveal Jesus as a generous, kind, and compassionate God who wills great blessings for all men: We see further proof of the divine power and the infinite mercy of our Savior towards the trusting faith of these two archetypes. It is possible that the faith of the synagogue leader might have been defective and the faith of the woman a bit superstitious, but Jesus amply rewards their defective faith by granting them health and life. What a hopeful statement, that even in our defective faith, we too might be granted such deliverance!

As Christians, therefore, we need to accept God’s call to health, holiness and mercy. Knowing by faith that Jesus accepts us as we are, let us bring before Him our bodily illnesses and spiritual wounds, praying for His healing touch. When we visit physicians this week, let us bring that strength of prayer to Christ the Divine Healer that we have chosen the right doctor and that he or she makes the correct diagnosis, prescribes the optimum treatment, and orders the right medication. Through baptism, we are invited to be another Christ to others. Within this is wrapped the primary call to forgiveness, and the restorative impact on both our lives and the lives of our neighbor. We may not be called upon to raise the dead as our Lord did, but we can continue Christ’s healing mission by tending the vulnerable, praying for their healing, boosting their morale with our caring presence, offering words of encouragement and inspiration, and forgiving any wrong.

A Blessed weekend!