

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

Brothers and Sisters in Christ; Grace and peace!



On this 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, the heart of our liturgy dwells on the precious gift of life. Growing up as child and going to Catechism, in preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Dominican Nuns had us memorize “God made us to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in the next.”(Baltimore Catechism). Life is no doubt an undeserved gift from God. He did not only make us but did so in His own image and likeness. What fashioning He designed us with!

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is love. In line with the Baltimore Catechism, this reading also suggests that the *goal* of our lives on Earth is to know, love, and serve God here, *wholesome* 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, the kindness and compassion that Jesus expresses in His healing ministry, together looking out for one another.

In the Gospel, St. Mark depicts two of our Lord's health-restoring miracles: the healing of a woman suffering from a chronic bleeding affliction, and the restoring of Jairus’ deceased daughter to life. These healings demonstrate Jesus’ desire that *all* peoples may aspire to a full life in Him. They reveal Jesus as a generous, kind, and compassionate God who wills that men should live their wholesome lives abundantly. 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, however, Jesus amply rewards their defective faith by granting them health and life. Like last Sunday, despite the seeming lack of faith from his disciples, he still calmed the wind for them. What a gracious God!

As Christians, therefore, we need to accept God’s call to health and holiness. Knowing by faith that Jesus accepts us as we are, let us bring before Him our bodily illnesses and spiritual wounds, asking for His healing touch. When we visit physicians this week, let us not forget to offer a 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 gives us the right medicine.

Finally, remember that we Christians need to continue Christ’s healing mission by tending the sick, praying for their healing and offering words of encouragement and inspiration. Probably, you may find these words as uplifting as they are to me, “You are a thought of God. You are the heartbeat of God. To say this is like saying that you have a value... that is infinite, that you matter to God in your complete unique individuality.” (Pope St. John Paul II).

Happy Sunday!