

Companions IN PRAYER



Sisters of St. Clare
Saginaw, MI

The Power of Faith

In this Sunday's gospel, Mark tells of Jesus healing two women. It begins when Jarius comes to Jesus pleading for the life of his daughter. Jesus agrees to go and see the sick child. During the walk to Jarius' home, they are interrupted by a desperately ill woman who has come up behind Jesus and touched his robe. We are told that Jesus was immediately aware that the power had gone out of him. He turned to the crowd and asked, "Who has touched my clothes?" The sick woman admits that she has touched his robe and tells him of her illness, a flow of blood that has not ceased for 12 years in spite of all the physicians that she has seen. She has heard about Jesus and tells him that she was sure that if she could just touch his robe that she would be made well. Jesus says to her, "...your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction."



Mark 5:21-43

Imagine with me for a moment that you and I are part of the crowd that was following Jesus that day. We are astounded by what we have seen and heard. A sick woman healed before our eyes. And we are even more puzzled when Jesus says that the woman's faith has cured her. We would wonder, "What kind of faith is Jesus talking about?"

But the story is not yet over. As part of the crowd, we continue to follow Jesus as he goes to see the daughter of Jarius. As we approach his home, people are saying that the girl has died. We hear Jesus say to Jarius, "Do not fear, only believe." We don't see what is going on in the house with Jesus, but soon the child appears walking around. We stand in awe. We would wonder, "What is this mysterious faith? What can Jesus mean when he speaks of faith?"

I believe that Jesus was not asking the sick woman and Jarius for any complicated set of ideas or beliefs. It was not knowledge that Jesus found essential, it was faith. Faith is about trust. Jesus is telling us that our relationship with him is essential. We need to trust without reservations. We need to trust without fear. When we trust, Jesus offers us new life. Like the people healed in the scriptures, we can also be transformed. These encounters with Jesus are outward signs of an inner transformation in our hearts.

We gather in our parishes in faith, with a sincere trust that Jesus can heal us and will bring us to new life as he did with those in the Gospel story. We have faith in the power of Jesus in our lives. Every time that we come to Eucharist, we reaffirm our faith and trust in Jesus,

and we pray for one another's healing and well-being. Every time we come to Eucharist, we confirm our trust in eternal life.

When we gather, we witness the power and presence of Jesus in our lives even as the people did in the Gospel so long ago. It is our faith and trust in Jesus that binds us together as a Christian community to help each other and to be witnesses to our faith.

Thank God for the gift of faith in our lives.

(We are interested in your thoughts. Let us know at: <http://srsclare.com/about-us/companions-in-prayer-newsletter>)

Sr. Laura and Sisters

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