

Reflection Questions

- Can you recall a moment in your recovery when you were devoted to seeking a personal encounter with God?
 - Do you live life with that same devotion today?
 - Is there a member in the group you would like to approach about their own relationship with God?

- Was there someone that delivered the saving grace of Jesus Christ (through prayer or apostolic action) when you were incapable of finding it yourself?
 - Have you shared your gratitude with/for that person?
 - Are you sharing the hope of Christ with others in your life?

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time



“Our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed death and brought life to light through the Gospel.” We will hear these words from the Second Letter of Saint Timothy during the Gospel Acclamation in this coming Sunday’s liturgy, summarizing the theme of this week’s readings. The first reading, from the Old Testament book of Wisdom, notes:

*For God formed man to be imperishable;
the image of his own nature he made him.
But by the envy of the devil, death entered the
world,
and they who belong to his company experience
it.*

In the darkness of our active addiction, we experienced death. This manifests itself through isolation, hopelessness, broken relationships, loss of self-worth, and feeling that we are no longer worthy of anything better. We reach for the source of our addiction—perhaps a bottle of liquor, another 2-liter of soda, excessive eating, legal or illegal drugs, compulsive spending, lustful fantasies, more control and fear—for brief moments of comfort. Of course, this cycle of addiction reinforces the presence of death.

We have been crafted in the image and likeness of God. Our identity lies in the unmerited grace that we are His beloved sons and daughters, regardless of our attempts to cut ourselves off from the Lord. It is possible that our efforts to find comfort are rooted in a desire that only God can fill. As we recognize the limitations and consequences of directing life according to our own will, we put faith in our Lord doing for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

This week's Gospel reading celebrates the faithful healing of two individuals. First, a woman suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years:

She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak. She said, "If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured." Immediately her flow of blood dried up. She felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction.

Second, a synagogue official named Jairus sought out Jesus to give his twelve-year-old daughter new life:

Seeing [Jesus] he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him, saying, "My daughter is at the point of death. Please, come lay your hands on her that she may get well and live."

We might find our own faith woven through these two gospel stories. The hemorrhaging woman spent all the money she had on professional help, but her disease worsened until she had an encounter with Jesus. Jairus was told by members of his own home that his daughter was beyond saving. He advocated for his loved one when she was no longer capable and brought the Lord to save her.

We walk our recovery journey today with the joy of knowing that Jesus Christ loves us, he gave his life to save us, and now he is living at our side every day to enlighten, strengthen, and free us.