

Dear Brothers and Sisters



Two women, both are sick. One has been hemorrhaging for twelve years, the other is only twelve years old, and at the point of death.

One touches Jesus' garment and is healed. The other is touched by him and is raised from the dead.

These women are an allegory for us.

No blood transfusion will suffice unless the hemorrhaging is stemmed. No one can lose blood continuously without having it replenished.

The demands of the children; misunderstandings in marriage; the stress of a job, or the lack of a job; the fact of living alone, or the reality of having to live with other people; the demands of maintaining a household; the pressures placed upon us by family...

There are myriad ways in which we hemorrhage, that is, we feel our life being pouring out. There comes a point when there is nothing else to give. Demands can no longer be met, misunderstandings no longer forgiven, stress becomes all consuming, others can become unbearable...solitude insufferable.

The Good News is that this, our human condition, is met by the presence of Christ.

Our meeting with him occurs in one of two ways; either by means of our own faith, or through the faith and intercession of others.

One woman touches Jesus.

The other is touched by Him.

One believes that Jesus can stem her flow of blood. She believes that He is the only one who is able to help her. If she touches him, she believes, the demands of daily life will no longer suck the life out of her.

The little girl, already dead, can ask for nothing of Jesus herself. She is raised to life by him, thanks to the intercession of her parents.

Each of us has the opportunity to touch Christ with faith today. No matter what we are going through, no matter how overwhelming life may seem, how impossible or demanding the situations we find ourselves in.

Many people will come to Mass this weekend. We have the opportunity to touch Christ with faith. Jesus was surrounded by a throng of people in today's Gospel, but he was only able to make a difference in the life of one woman.

He is here in our midst today. Will someone touch him with faith? Will this person, be you?

Fr. Sean