

Sunday June 27, 2021
13th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Parishioner Reflection

By: Janice Lahti

Give her something to eat.

Surprising comment after doing the miraculous – raising a beloved daughter from the dead. Give her something to eat! Maybe bringing dead people back to life is not all that remarkable for Jesus. “Stop fussing over all this”, Jesus might have thought, and then prompted those gathered round to resume their routines – like preparing a meal.

So, what was remarkable if not the act of raising the dead? To Jairus Jesus said, “Do not fear, only believe”. Jesus knows we are not created for fear, but for Love. This Reality is accessed through a deep trust in Jesus’ teachings and the humility to know we are nothing outside of our relationship with God. If we humbly consent to being changed, to being transformed into Love, loving action becomes our daily bread, fear recedes, and faith increases. Jesus clearly saw the potential in Jairus for transformational growth in Love.

When reading miracle accounts in Scripture, I can focus on the miracles and get tangled up in trying to sort out how they “really” happened. However, miracles are not the point. When in deep need, people can be moved to truly open to and humbly acknowledge the Divine Creator as the source for everything that is both possible and impossible. Faith increases by persevering until one recognizes Jesus’ teaching as Truth and one responds full-heartedly. Jesus’ miracles were occasions for a deepening of faith, and a strengthening of relationship with the Creative Force to which we owe all we know, experience and treasure.

I wonder, after all the commotion died down if Jairus recognized what had really transpired in this amazing moment with Jesus? The love for his daughter was so strong Jairus was willing to abandon his safely constructed world. Jairus grew past the Law, his anchor of faith, and entered right into the heart of the matter – Love - a healing, generative Love. Jairus’ love for his child was the fuel needed to leap across the chasm from surface elements of religious observance to a full and expansive faith in God, into a relationship with his Father. The very same father that Jesus said is Our Father too! Jairus’ daughter may have risen from her bed alive in the flesh, but Jairus rose as well, to new Life in God.

"Daughter your faith has made you well". If I but touch his clothes, I too will be made well. If I dare to trust, dare to come out of the safe place I've cocooned into, and grow my own little seed of faith, planted in me by God, I too can have new Life. New Life that I can then share with my neighbours each day.

The generative forces of the world are wholesome, and there is no destructive poison in them.... So, seek what is generative, for it is of God's essence. God's Self is fully given into this physical universe in the Big Bang moment. It's a creative outpouring of Love Divine. All that exists has been encoded with this Divine DNA of loving, generative capacity. At any moment, if we are willing, each of us can connect to this generative force and usher in the blossoming of Love in the world.

Let's begin today and participate in miracle-making, by deepening our faith, and by moving toward each other with a welcoming smile and an open heart.