

*A Glimpse of My Heart*  
*By: Fr. Thomas James, SVD*

Having celebrated the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood Of Christ, (Corpus Christi), then on Monday, June 7, 2021, we began the 10th week in Ordinary Time. In this reflection, A Glimpse of My Heart will focus and travel the landscape briefly beginning with the flight of the Chosen People from Egypt and how we have arrived liturgically to this point, the 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time. In Exodus Moses read to the people on Corpus Christi from the book of Exodus 24: 3-8 what God expected of them, and with one voice they replied that they understood and would obey. But from their history and past behaviors we realized they broke their commitments often and were often forgiven! Then in today's liturgy, in the Letter to the Hebrew, the author describes how the New Covenant replaced the Old Covenant. The letter states the following, "In the New Covenant the Blood of Christ, through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God cleanses our consciences from dead works to worship the living God. The above described how the transition took place. Now in the New Covenant, the Major Feasts became the Foundation and strength of our Faith; they strengthened our Spirituality; realizing how physical food strengthens our physical wellbeing, now for us the Eucharist is our spiritual food that nourishes and strengthens us as we travel the road of our spiritual-faith journey.

Today, this Glimpse of My Heart focuses on three individuals; Jarius, the synagogue official, who immediately upon hearing that Jesus was in the vicinity, probably over a period of time heard about Jesus from people living in his community; likewise Jesus on one occasion wanted to know from the Apostles who people were saying He was, immediately they began to respond, "some say you are John the Baptist, some Elijah and others a great prophet. This is how Jarius probably heard about Jesus so now seeing him and needing him, he proceeded to reverenced him and fell at his feet pleading with Jesus," my daughter is near death come lay your hands on her that she may get well, he went off with Jesus and now St. Mark leaves us hanging without any specific outcome or conclusion as he introduces another person in the narrative; a woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years, treated with no success by man doctors using all of her savings and resources with no positive results, only getting worse, but then she heard about Jesus. In hearing about him said, "If only I touch is clothes, I shall be cured". At that moment she was cured, healed from the affliction of 13 years. Immediately, Jesus felt power had gone out of him and asked suddenly, "who touched me"? The Disciples were amazed at such a question for such a large crowd but realizing what happened to her knelt down before Jesus and told him the whole truth. She came up behind him and touched his clothes! This is the faith she was wrapped up in, the feeling that ran through her veins, now St. Mark echoed the process of her healing experience, "if but to touch his clothes, I shall be cured"! At that moment she was cured, she was healed from the affliction of 13 years. Immediately, Jesus felt power had gone out of him and suddenly he asked, "Who touched me"? The Disciples were amazed at the question because of such a large crowd, but realizing what had happened to her knelt down before Jesus and told him the whole truth. Jesus said to her, Daughter your faith has save you. Following this healing experience, now St. Mark returns to the crowd who had gathered at Jarius' home and some in the crowd said your daughter has died, do not worry Jesus anymore. Then Jesus turned and said to the official, "Do not be afraid just have faith"! Upon arriving Jesus asked about the ongoing commotion, saying this child is not dead and they began to ridicule him. Upon entering, Jesus took her by the hand and said, "Talitha koum" which means, "Little Girl, I say to you arise. She got up and walked around. The people we astounded.

This is an interesting experiential narrative similar to experiences we may have experienced or encountered at one time or another. What is the common thread in this gospel? From our eyes, our perception, our many challenges, our powerlessness, long illnesses and dear on dying young, murdered, cripple from a devastating accident or shooting, or dies suddenly. We ask how com? Now let us switch and view this miracle from the lens of Jesus. He sees two people in need, helpless, broken, vulnerable and reaching out desperately to him for help. He responds to their need. They see like us how he responds to them; to the centurion's daughter's life is restored, the woman who had the hemorrhage for 13 years, her health was restored and finally Jarius's daughter was given the opportunity to develop and use her gifts to impact her environment.

This gospel narrative speaks to all of us. We are connected in some way from our personal experience, family experience, faith community experience, Louisiana, America and the World, but today pick one and each of us can tell our story or write it out, then point out the need if fulfilled we would feel better and pray and reflect how our faith helped and helps live this experience. I left this open so all of us would come face to face with our faith! Now we see why the Apostles shared with us, why they locked themselves in a room because of fear, now why did Jarius not fear and the woman with the affliction continued to be persistent in their faith. This week let us all be persistent in our faith, driving out any fear that we have stored that really makes us fragile, and we join with the courage found in the Old Negro Spiritual,

**“THOUGH IT ALL, THROUGH IT ALL WE HAVE LEARNED AND CONTINUSOUSLY LEARN EACH DAY HOW TO DEPEND ON THE LORD!**