**JUNE 27 – XIII SUNDAY O.T. [B]**

**While he was still speaking, people from the synagogue official's house arrived and said, "Your daughter has died; why trouble the teacher any longer?" Disregarding the message that was reported, Jesus said to the synagogue official, "Do not be afraid; just have faith."**

**Today the Gospel offered to our meditation and contemplation, not only reveals to our heart what true faith is, it tells us that everyone of us, with his own faith, must be of support, help, strength, truth, light for the faith of his brothers. Let us observe how Judith is source and principle of faith for the rulers of the town of Bethulia: “When they came, she said to them: "Listen to me, you rulers of the people of Bethulia. What you said to the people today is not proper. When you promised to hand over the city to our enemies at the end of five days unless within that time the Lord comes to our aid, you interposed between God and yourselves this oath which you took. Who are you, then, that you should have put God to the test this day, setting yourselves in the place of God in human affairs? It is the Lord Almighty for whom you are laying down conditions; will you never understand anything? You cannot plumb the depths of the human heart or grasp the workings of the human mind; how then can you fathom God, who has made all these things, discern his mind, and understand his plan? "No, my brothers, do not anger the Lord our God. For if he does not wish to come to our aid within the five days, he has it equally within his power to protect us at such time as he pleases, or to destroy us in the face of our enemies. It is not for you to make the Lord our God give surety for his plans. "God is not man that he should be moved by threats, nor human, that he may be given an ultimatum."So while we wait for the salvation that comes from him, let us call upon him to help us, and he will hear our cry if it is his good pleasure. (Jdt 8, 11-17) Every member of the body of Christ must support, help, comfort, enlighten, encourage, increase, purify, vivify the faith in the entire body of Christ. One only heart rooted and founded in Christ is sufficient so that the faith in the entire body is resurrected from the torpor of death.**

**Today the body of Christ is in a great sufferance: it is shipwrecking in the true faith in God Father, in Christ the Lord, in the Holy Spirit. The ship of the Church is in a whirlwind of a storm ever known before. One wants to eradicate from many Christians the true faith right down to the roots. The one who has the faith should shout at each of his brother the same cry Mattathias, the Father of Maccabees, shouted: “The officers of the king in charge of enforcing the apostasy came to the city of Modein to organize the sacrifices. Many of Israel joined them, but Mattathias and his sons gathered in a group apart. Then the officers of the king addressed Mattathias: "You are a leader, an honorable and great man in this city, supported by sons and kinsmen. Come now, be the first to obey the king's command, as all the Gentiles and the men of Judah and those who are left in Jerusalem have done. Then you and your sons shall be numbered among the King's Friends, and shall be enriched with silver and gold and many gifts." But Mattathias answered in a loud voice: "Although all the Gentiles in the king's realm obey him, so that each forsakes the religion of his fathers and consents to the king's orders, yet I and my sons and my kinsmen will keep to the covenant of our fathers. God forbid that we should forsake the law and the commandments. We will not obey the words of the king nor depart from our religion in the slightest degree." As he finished saying these words, a certain Jew came forward in the sight of all to offer sacrifice on the altar in Modein according to the king's order.**

**When Mattathias saw him, he was filled with zeal; his heart was moved and his just fury was aroused; he sprang forward and killed him upon the altar. At the same time, he also killed the messenger of the king who was forcing them to sacrifice, and he tore down the altar. Thus he showed his zeal for the law, just as Phinehas did with Zimri, son of Salu. Then Mattathias went through the city shouting, "Let everyone who is zealous for the law and who stands by the covenant follow after me!" Thereupon he fled to the mountains with his sons, leaving behind in the city all their possessions. (1Mac, 15-28)**

**We are not in the Old Testament. One has to live the zeal according to the rules of the Gospel. But it is necessary that those who have the zeal for our God and Lord show it to the entire body of Christ so that others may be purified, encouraged, supported by our most pure faith. Today no one can live the faith in the ghetto of his heart. Faith is like the tree for the root. If the tree is dried, the root is dried. If the tree is dead, the root is dead. If the faith is not visible, it is dead. The invisible faith does not exist.**

**Let us read the text of Mc 5,21-43**

**When Jesus had crossed again (in the boat) to the other side, a large crowd gathered around him, and he stayed close to the sea. One of the synagogue officials, named Jairus, came forward. Seeing him 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." He went off with him, and a large crowd followed him and pressed upon him. There was a woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years. She had suffered greatly at the hands of many doctors and had spent all that she had. Yet she was not helped but only grew worse. 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. Jesus, aware at once that power had gone out from him, turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who has touched my clothes?" But his disciples said to him, "You see how the crowd is pressing upon you, and yet you ask, 'Who touched me?'" And he looked around to see who had done it. The woman, realizing what had happened to her, approached in fear and trembling. She fell down before Jesus and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction." While he was still speaking, people from the synagogue official's house arrived and said, "Your daughter has died; why trouble the teacher any longer?" Disregarding the message that was reported, Jesus said to the synagogue official, "Do not be afraid; just have faith." He did not allow anyone to accompany him inside except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they arrived at the house of the synagogue official, he caught sight of a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. So he went in and said to them, "Why this commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep." And they ridiculed him. Then he put them all out. He took along the child's father and mother and those who were with him and entered the room where the child was. He took the child by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise!" The girl, a child of twelve, arose immediately and walked around. (At that) they were utterly astounded. He gave strict orders that no one should know this and said that she should be given something to eat.**

**The woman, that we call the Bleeding Woman, has a faith so strong and powerful, strong and powerful enough not to need the word. She asks with the heart. This faith cannot stay hidden. It is necessary that it is brought to light and Jesus operates so that it is known by every other man. This faith can save many lives, actually the entire world. What does this faith believe? It believes that fire burns everything that is thrown in it. The woman thinks that it is sufficient to touch the divine fire that is Christ Jesus.**

**Jairus’s faith is founded on the already seen. Jesus has healed other infirm. He can heal his little daughter, too. To this limited faith, Jesus comes in rescue and says to Jairus: “Do not be afraid. Just have faith.” What faith should Jairus have? Faith in Christ. Faith in what he saw and faith in what he has never seen. Faith in the omnipotence of Christ. Faith that to Him nothing is impossible. He can resurrect dead. He can call dead to life, too. This faith is urgent to us, too. Believing in the already seen is easy. Believing in the not seen is sometimes difficult, impossible for us. This is the faith Jesus asks us. With him, every human impossible becomes possible.**

**Mother of God, help us to be light of most pure faith for the body of Christ.**