**TUESDAY JANUARY 31 – IV WEEK O.T. [A]**

**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.**

**Today the Gospel puts us before three faiths: the faith of the bleeding woman, the faith of Jairus, the faith of Jesus. The haemorrhaging woman, this woman who had consumed her substances vainly recurring to every physician to find a little of alleviation for her body, believes that if she manages even only to touch Christ Jesus’s cloak, she will be healed from her evil. Hers is a faith that does not ask by mouth. She asks with the heart, instead. She does not ask with the mouth because of her extremely embarrassing condition. Ritually, she is an impure woman and she does not want to show the other her state keeping her away from people, so as not to contaminate them. Here is also her faith: touching the cloak, she would not have contaminated Jesus. Instead, Jesus would have burnt her evil with the divine fire arising from his body. Hers is a wise faith. It is faith founded on the most pure truth of Christ Jesus. When one throws something unclean in the fire, the fire is not contaminated. What is unclean and impure is purified by the fire. Jesus is divine fire capable of purifying, curing, healing, delivering, sanctifying everything that is unclean, on the condition that it is all thrown in his divine and human, eternal and incarnated fire. Even each of our sin, thrown in this fire of love is purified, healed, cancelled. From this divine fire the new life will always arise.**

**Let us read the text of Mk 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.**

**Jairus knows that Jesus can deliver from every illness. But can He even deliver from death? Jesus has not risen any person yet, delivering him from the laces of death. When he knows that his daughter is dead, his faith in Jesus may collapse. History can sustain faith until a certain point. Then one needs to go from the visible history to the invisible truth of Christ Jesus. But for that we need a divine, supernatural help, of the Holy Spirit. Here is then that Jesus meets the faith of Jairus, still imperfect as it is founded on the history of Christ Jesus that is of yesterday and invites him to only have faith. If Jesus has come with him, He has not come to contemplate a dead child. He has come to give life. This is the faith of Jesus: before Him there are no impossible things. Before Him, only the conversion of the hearts that are stubborn in their hatred against truth and consume their life in vice and in vices is impossible. The fact then, that Jesus is mocked by the presents to have said to Jairus that the girl is not dead, but sleeps, attests the truth of that death. They know that the girl is dead. They have seen her. They have assisted in her passing. If the girl is dead and the mocking toward Jesus confirms it, if Jesus recalls her to life, a true miracle will be performed. Without this mocking, one could even have thought to an apparent death. Since the people attest that the girl is truly dead, also the miracle performed by Jesus is true. Today Jesus teaches us all that the one who has true faith must be of support for every faith either weak or infirm, or about to die. If the strong faith of some does not become sustain of the weak faith of the brothers, it is sign that our faith is not strong, either. May the Mother of God make us of true faith.**