

## From the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I read the Gospel this week, my heart goes out to parents when they see their child, no matter what age, going through difficult times. When a parent sees the outcome of a destructive lifestyle, when their adult children live beyond their means and are forced to move out of their home or when a child, who has been brought up in a good solid Catholic home, leaves the Church - oh, the hurt the parent must feel in their soul. How many prayers to St. Monica must be offered for the conversion of the heart of the child so they will return to the Church.

So, the parent acts like Jairus, in our Gospel, reaching out to Jesus for help or like the woman, also in our Gospel, who was labeled unclean - both reached out to Jesus for help.

In our first reading this weekend, we hear how God does not rejoice in the destruction of the living. Our God wants your children to be happy. Their negative decisions were not part of God's plan, nor part of what you wanted for them, I am sure. But I am also sure there were many times I disappointed my own parents with some decision I made or action that I took when I did not think of the consequences. I can honestly tell you that when I failed, they never said, "We told you so" or "You messed up again." No, they would say, "Well, Sean, what did you learn?" My parents never went to college, in fact because of economic problems, they both left school in the 7th grade. They were hard workers and put five boys through college and dad retired at the age of 62 and he and mom had the time of their lives in retirement. They were like the two in our Gospel today, they would always go to Jesus asking Him to show what can be done when they have the Great Healer in their lives.

Parents, keep bringing your children to the Lord in your prayer life. The centurion asked Jesus for help; the woman reached out to touch Him. Never underestimate what can be done when you reach out to touch His Most Sacred Heart.

**Peace and be at peace,  
Fr. Sean**

P.S. Please remember to say a prayer to St. John Vianney, Patron Saint for Parish Priests, for the priests in your life.