



13th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME ***YEAR B – July 1, 2018***

In light of what Jesus says in Luke 9:23, it is correct to conclude that each one of us has a cross to bear. Perhaps there is someone here at Mass today who is suffering from a health problem that is threatening peace of mind.

Perhaps like Jairus about whom we hear in the Gospel today, there is someone in your family who is seriously ill. Perhaps there is a young person here suffering from an unhappy home, or concern about the future in light of present tenses.

Each of us deals with the kinds of problems that can occasionally threaten our peace of mind. So what do we do when that happens? There is an inscription above the door of St. Francis De Sales Church in California that reads:

*"The same everlasting Father
who cares for you today
will take care of you tomorrow and every day
Either he will shield you from suffering
or he will give you unfailing strength to bear it.
Be at peace then and put aside
all anxious thoughts and imaginations."*

That is good advice, but it raises some questions that must be addressed. What do we do if we find it hard to put our faith in God. What do we do when we find it hard to be calm in the midst of the storms of life.

The answer is *personal* prayer. Talk to God in your own words instead of using the words of someone else. Take time today to check your personal prayer life to see if talking with God has slipped into last place on your list of things to do. There is a poem that sums up the message in the scripture readings today:

*"The road of life was bright
It stretched before my sight
The Lord was at my side
to be my friend and guide
And so I started out.*

*But then the sky turned dark
the road grew rough and steep
I stumbled on my feet
My legs grew sore and weak
I scarce could carry on.*

*I turned and cried, my Lord
Why all this pain and plight
Where is the road, where is the light
I cannot carry on.*

*Then Jesus turned and said to me
My child where is your faith.
Where is your belief in me
Love chose this road for you
Just trust and follow me."*

Recall the words of Dag Hammarskjöld. "Cry, cry if you must but don't complain. The path has chosen you. And at the end of it all you will say, *THANK YOU.*" A friend of mine once told me, "The Bible often says, "It came to pass....". It doesn't say, "It came to stay...". A clever way of reminding us:

"THIS TOO SHALL PASS..."

