

# PONDO NG PINOY SUNDAY

## Homily Guide for June 2021

### Gospel: Mark 5:21-43

13th Sunday of Ordinary Time

### Pondo ng Pinoy: Miracle Here and Now

By: Rev. Fr. Romulo O. Castañeda  
Priest Coordinator, Pondo ng Pinoy Desk  
Diocese of Libmanan

As Jesus went to the other side of the lake, He encountered two different and contrasting persons. The first is Jairus, an official of the synagogue, of good reputation and may even be considered righteous, and a woman whose name was never mentioned (indicating little or no significance in society) and who suffered hemorrhage for 12 long years. Despite spending everything she had to get cured, she even got worse. This condition marked her as unclean, poor, and thus isolated. Jairus spoke on behalf of his daughter but the woman had no one. But her courage drove her to touch even Jesus' cloak.

Besides this contrast, there are interesting similarities. Both of them are facing a dilemma. Jairus risks losing the respect of his Jewish peers as he goes to Jesus for help. He must love his daughter so much that he risked his reputation. The woman draws secretly behind Jesus to touch his cloak, risking reproach and seclusion once again. Both of them have these in mind as they approach Jesus but because of their courage and faith in Him, Jairus' daughter was healed, the woman's bleeding stopped.

Friends, certainly, some of us are experiencing moments like that of Jairus and the woman. But instead of complaining, we can draw inspiration from their disposition and acts.

#### **We Need Jesus**

Pondo ng Pinoy (PnP) is celebrating its 17th foundation anniversary. It is timely that this Gospel reminds us of a certain disposition that every PnP member should have. And what is that? Just like Jairus and the woman, we should always remember that no matter the situation, we should always have the courage to admit that we are in need—**that we need Jesus.**

While in PnP we raise funds for the poor (and perhaps "fundraising" is the least description we could give to our mission), we are reminded that most importantly, PnP encourages us to a kind of lifestyle, a spirituality rooted in the love of God. Jairus and the woman were in need of Jesus, so must we. Jesus can only perform His miracle for us if we admit that we need Him. In short, through humility we surrender all to God and we let God intervene in us. Remember, God does not force people. A bottle full of water cannot further receive. Only a poor can admit that he or she needs God in his or her life.

This need for Jesus leads to another element of Pondo ng Pinoy. We are not just seeking the welfare of the poor and marginalized in our society, but first and foremost, we are seeking faith renewal through a life of conversion. Conversion is turning away from our sinfulness and admitting that we need Jesus. Isn't this the reason why we are putting "crumbs" in our bottles? We put "crumbs" because they are the fruits of our conversions. It is the fruit of our love for God and most importantly, the concrete translation of God's love for all of us. We give because we received love. That is why Gaudencio B. Cardinal Rosales cautions, "Never give to Pondo ng Pinoy unless you give out of love." By doing so, the giver is brought to a virtuous way of life.

#### **Jesus not only healed, He brought back dignity.**

The second lesson from our gospel is from our Master Himself. When Jesus performs his ministry of healing, He gives his attention and availability to every person in need of Him especially those who are poor and have no status in society. When He heals, He is not only healing a person's

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# Pondo ng Pinoy, Katulad ni Hesus na Liwanag sa Makabagong Panahon

## Reflection on the Gospel

by: Mr. Arnie Relox

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Ang Panginoong Hesukristo ang liwanag ng mundo, patuloy na nagbibigay ng halimbawa kung paano mamuhay sa pag-ibig ng Diyos at kung paano maipapakita ang pananampalataya at pagtitiwala sa Kanya sa kabila ng mga suliranin o pagsubok.

Sa ebanghelyo, si Jairu at ang babaeng dinurugo ay nagpapakita ng tunay na pananampalataya at tiwala kay Hesukristo. Si Jairu na nagwika kay Hesus na "My daughter is at the point of death. Please, come lay your hands on her that she may get well and live" ay naniniwala kay Hesus na maipatong lang Niya ang Kanyang mga kamay sa anak ay gagaling na ito. At ang babaeng dinurugo ay nagwika sa kanyang sarili "If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured."

Tayo ay nakakaranas din ng katulad na suliranin. Lalo ngayong may pandemya, marami ang nagkasakit ngunit ipinapakita ng ebanghelyo na magtiwala at manalig lamang tayo sa ating Panginoong. Katulad ni Jairu at ng babaeng dinurugo, marami ang umaasang pakinggan ng Diyos ang ating mga kahilingang iligtas ang mga mahal sa buhay at pagalingin sa kanilang mga karamdaman.

Pananalig at pagtitiwala nang buong puso sa Diyos. Isa itong hamon sa bawat isa, at hamon din sa Pondo ng Pinoy, na patuloy na manalig at ibahagi ang pag-ibig ng Diyos sa pamamagitan ng mga projects at relief assistance sa mga naghihirap, walang makain, walang trabaho, mga maysakit,



nawawalan ng pag-asa at pananalig at higit sa lahat, tulong pang-espiritwal sa pamamagitan ng katesismo at paghatid ng presensya at Mabuting Balita ni Hesus.

Nakakatuwang isipin na nagsimula ang Pondo ng Pinoy sa isang napakasimpleng pangarap na makatulong sa mga mahihirap sa pamamagitan ng mumu (25 cents) ng ibinibigay rin ng mga komunidad, na kung iisipin ay wala namang mararating at sa iba ay walang halaga, ngunit dahil sa simpleng pagbibigay na nagmumula sa puso, buong kababaang loob na pagtugon sa panawagan ng Diyos, ang mga mumung ito ay nakakatulong sa maraming tao at komunidad.

Sa loob ng labingpitong taon, mula sa pag-ibig ng Diyos, ang Pondo ng Pinoy ay nakakapagbigay pa rin ng pag-asa sa Pilipino. "Anumang magaling, basta't malimit ay patungong langit." Nawa'y marami pang tulad ni Jairu at ng babaeng dinurugo ang matulungan ng Pondo ng Pinoy, upang kanila ring maibahagi ang naranasan nilang pag-ibig ng Diyos at at makamit ang kaganapan ng buhay—buhay na puno ng pag-ibig at pagtitiwala sa Diyos at sa kapwa, nang ang Pondo ng Pinoy at maging sila ay maging tulad ng Diyos na liwanag sa bawat isa.

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physical illness but restores their entire being just like the case of the woman. After she touched the cloak, Jesus realized that power came out of Him and asked among the crowd who touched him. The woman appeared with fear and amazement, perhaps because Jesus knew that an unclean woman touched Him. But instead of receiving condemnation, the woman received His love, acceptance, and mercy by calling her "daughter." In this miracle, Jesus not only healed the woman but also brought back her dignity as she was called "daughter."

My dear friends, isn't this part of our mission in Pondo ng Pinoy? That through giving our "crumbs" we are also bringing back the to the poor—the least, the last, the lost their dignity and identity as Children of God which were corrupted by sin and poverty. The last words in our gospel, "Give her something to eat" is the very reason why we provide wholistic support to those in need of spiritual and material assistance, and even towards having a sustainable life. Just as Jesus gives time and attention to the poor, so must our mission be.

Pope Francis challenged our priests to become shepherds living with the 'smell of the sheep.' I think it is also the same challenge for us who are co-workers in the flock.

Pondo ng Pinoy has something that we believe can transform society. It is far more than a fundraising institution; it is a lifestyle. It believes that even those little "crumbs" that we give which are rooted in the love of God and fruits of our conversions, initiates societal transformation beginning with transformation of our personal lives, in our here and now.

So next time we put some 25 cents in our bottles, let us be reminded that we give because we are loved by God and will continue to love for the good of our neighbors. Above all, Pondo ng Pinoy does not make us simply sharers of God's blessings and generosity but even more, it transforms our very being. Thus, every centavo we share makes us the presence of Jesus to others. That is a MIRACLE!

Happy 17th Foundation Anniversary mga ka-Pondo!





## Do Not Be Afraid; Just Have Faith

By: Rev. Fr. Errol Fidel H. Mananquil  
Former Priest Coordinator  
Diocese of Pasig

In my experience as a former priest coordinator of Pondo ng Pinoy Desk in the Diocese of Pasig, I always hold on to this message of the Lord: “Do not be afraid; just have faith.” With all the fearful storms of trials that I experienced, like the challenge of implementing projects, I was ever guided and strengthened by this message.

The words “Do not be afraid; just have faith” caught my attention because of the truth and applicability of its message in the midst of this COVID 19 pandemic.

Like Jairus whose daughter is seriously ill and the woman who suffered from an incurable hemorrhage, many of us, if not all, are also desperately suffering from fear during this pandemic. Today’s gospel invites us to do the same: full of hope and trust, and in prayer, let us come to the Lord for help.

Often, we come to prayer trembling in fear. The Lord Jesus invites us to not be afraid but to have faith and entrust ourselves into the loving hands of God. When Jairus, a desperate father came to Jesus, his courage and trust to crave for the Lord’s help for his daughter’s cure came from his fear. The Lord, promising nothing, goes along with him. When Jesus sensed that power has gone out of Him and asked, “who touched me?” Jesus wanted to cure the woman more than her sickness. Jesus made her stand up and be acclaimed for her trust, be acclaimed as now clean, so that she would no longer have reason to be afraid and insecure.

The gospel reminds us that the Lord wants us to seek His eternal loving and liberating presence in times of trials, storms, and despair and entrust all our concerns to His care rather than remain in fear.

In my experience as a former priest coordinator of Pondo ng Pinoy Desk in the Diocese of Pasig, I always hold on to this message of the Lord: “Do not be afraid; just have faith.” With all the fearful storms of trials that I experienced, like the challenge of implementing projects, I was ever guided and strengthened by this message. By making it my mantra, I slowly experienced stillness within and developed a trusting attitude to the ever loving and caring presence of the Lord and gradually, I felt the Lord took away all my fears.

Being a priest coordinator for more than ten years, I am grateful for the beautiful relationship between the priest and lay coordinators of Pondo ng Pinoy. Hindi ako magpapaalam dahil bahagi pa rin naman ako ng Pondo ng Pinoy sa implementation ng program sa parish level at sa mga livelihood projects, hindi lamang sa parish kungdi para sa buong diocese.

Hinihiling ko ang inyong panalangin para sa aking minimithing TESDA accreditation para maging trainor/instructor ng welding, Ref Aircon Technician, at ibang pang skills na malaki ang maitutulong sa marami nating kababayan.

In prayer, let us always ask for the grace of faith that we never fear and tire of seeking the Lord, of knocking at the door of His Sacred Heart.

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