

'OUR DEEP GRATITUDE TO JESUS CHRIST WHO HEALS THOSE FOR WHOM WE PRAY' – JUNE 5 2016

In Luke's Gospel Chapter 7, we have one healing after the other.
Both are strong images, worth spending time praying over.
Just imagine that you are there, watching at first.
And then finding yourself MOVED.
MOVED By COMPASSION.
MOVED To GRATITUDE.

The first is 'The Healing of a Centurion's Slave' (Lk. 7:1-10) followed by The Raising of the Widow's Son' (Lk. 7:11-17).

[Luke's Gospel Chapter 7 - <http://www.usccb.org/bible/luke/7>]

The Roman centurion is part of the oppressing army and he is good to the Jewish people.
And we remember those people who have kind hearts - good hearted and good willed who are not Christian, but who are still in a relationship with God.
The centurion reminds us of that, as he asks Jesus to heal his servant.

And Jesus points out the faith of the Roman centurion.

We are reminded that people can be of faith even if they are not here – in church - with us.

Following that passage, in today's Gospel, we hear of the young man, the only son of his mother, who is a widow.

It is in the funeral procession that Jesus feels sorry - but it is far more than that.

Jesus is so moved, so very deeply in His body – the Greek word describes this in more detail –

Greek. *ἐσπλαγγνίσθη, splagchnizomai*: this means to be moved in the inward parts, to feel deep compassion.

When we touch the deep compassion of Jesus, we have got to act – there is just no other option.

We need to be part of the compassion of Jesus

Did you notice that there are no words from the mother?

Can you imagine what it must have been like for her?

The mother is at the funeral procession of her only son.

And Jesus RAISES her son and then He GIVES HIM TO HIS MOTHER.

These past few days, that image has stayed with me, moving me to express my gratitude to God for so many things.

Maybe no words are needed. We just sit in the presence of God.

It is so very powerful and sometimes we do not need words, because the emotions are just so strong.

Today we pray for God's healing.

LET GOD MOVE US in COMPASSION.

LET GOD MOVE US in GRATITUDE.

I invite each of us to pause for a moment and think of one thing for which we, in gratitude, give thanks to God.

Let us pause.

Now let all offer that gratitude to God.

We make our prayer through Christ Our Lord.

[Fr. Gerry Hefferan – ‘Our Deep Gratitude to Jesus Christ Who Heals those for Whom We Pray’ – 5 June 2016]

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/060516.cfm>]

[Luke’s Gospel Chapter 7 - <http://www.usccb.org/bible/luke/7>]