



From the Office of the President

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REGIS UNIVERSITY | DENVER, COLORADO

**Homily for the Thirteenth Sunday of the Year (B)
Basilica Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
Denver, CO
July 1, 2018**

**Wisdom 1:13-15, 2:23-24
2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15
Mark 5:21-43 ·**

To be human is to love - a spouse, a child, a dear friend, one's health. But it is also to ache. Love really does mean that we long, hunger. To be human is to surrender even our own dignity that comes with our hunger and longing and in the final days, entrust our lives to others.

"If God does not make death or rejoice in it, then why does God not intervene with those we love, with those God loves when they are dying? The Book of Wisdom claims that God fashioned all things that they might have imperishable being. But we perish. All of us.

"Jairus said to Jesus: 'My little daughter is critically ill. Please come so that she may get well and live.' Fate was reversed. Why will you not heal all of us like that? Are we not as worthy as Jairus' child?" (Kavanaugh, *The Word Encountered*, 82-83)

From the gospels, we see that Jesus knew such hunger, such longing. Anticipating our ache and sense of loss he always asks us to trust him. It's explicit in John's gospel in the fourteenth chapter: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith in me also." But it is here, too, today in Mark's gospel: "Fear is useless, what is needed is faith."

It can be a temptation when we ache, when we feel the loss of one we love, not to grow, not to allow God to complete our incompleteness. But ask yourself, "What kind of God is this who thought all powerful, would bend to us creatures and tenderly, quietly ask us to love? To create more love in the world, more hope, more faith? Who is this God who, like a mothering wing, waits patiently for our answer given so slowly as we learn to love as God loves? Who is this God who becomes more vulnerable than the creatures He creates?

This is the only God and we mark our lives as holy in this world and trust that even as we die to this world, we will live eternally.