Tuesday of the Twenty-fourth Week in Ordinary Time

Gospel text (*Lk* 7:11-17): Jesus journeyed to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, he was moved with pity for her and said to her, "Do not weep." He stepped forward and touched the coffin; at this the bearers halted, and he said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming, "A great prophet has arisen in our midst," and "God has visited his people." This report about him spread through the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.

"Young man, I tell you, arise!"

Fr. Joan SERRA i Fontanet
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Today, two processions meet. One procession that accompanies death and another that accompanies life. A poor widow, followed by her family and friends, was taking her son to the cemetery and suddenly sees the crowd that was following Jesus. The two processions cross paths and stop, and Jesus says to the mother who was about to bury her son: "Do not weep" (Luke 7:13). Everyone stares at Jesus, who does not remain indifferent to the pain and suffering of that poor mother, but, on the contrary, takes pity on her and restores her son's life. To find Jesus is to find life, for Jesus said of himself: "I am the resurrection and the life" (Jn 11:25). Saint Braulio of Saragossa wrote: "The hope of resurrection encourages us because we shall see again those whom we lose here below."

Reading the Gospel passage that tells us about the resurrection of the young man of Nain, I could emphasize the divinity of Jesus and insist on it, saying that only God can bring a young man back to life; but today I would prefer to highlight His humanity, so that we don't see Jesus as a distant being, as someone so different from us, or as someone so overly important that does not inspire in us the trust that a good friend can.

We Christians must know how to imitate Jesus. We must ask God for the grace to be Christ for others. May everyone who sees us behold an image of Jesus on earth! Those who saw Saint Francis of Assisi, for

example, saw the living image of Jesus. Saints are those who carry Jesus in their words and deeds and imitate his way of acting and his goodness. Our society needs saints, and you can be one of them in your community.

Thoughts on Today's Gospel

- “Christ is the definitive incarnation of mercy, its living sign.” (Saint John Paul II)

- “What moved Jesus in all of these situations was nothing other than mercy, with which he read the hearts of those he encountered and responded to their deepest need.” (Francis)

- “Jesus links faith in the resurrection to his own person: ‘I am the Resurrection and the life’ (Jn 11:25). (...) Already now in this present life he gives a sign and pledge of this by restoring some of the dead to life.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, Nº 994)