

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – February 3&4, 2018 – Reflection

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“Peter’s mother-in-law lay ill with a fever ... Jesus approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her.”

A fever with its chills and sweats, ache and burning, saps our strength, leaves us weak and listless. Even our sleep is no comfort as we thrash in the throes of nightmares and terrors. And, after too many days, if the fever doesn't break, death almost seems a welcome companion, a blessed relief.

But, is fever always deadly ... dangerous?

Our Lord welcomed it when the heat was turned up in the spirits of those He was trying to reach, to inspire: “Would that you were hot or cold, but because you are neither hot nor cold but lukewarm, I spew you out of me!”

For Jesus, we're sick not when the thermometer registers more than 98.6 degrees, but when the gauge of our inner fire registers bored or blasé, ho-hum or going through the motions.

He looks at those of us who are sleepwalking through our faith, satisfied with the same-old same-old and He rages at how we've let His gift of faith slip through our fingers: “Do you think that I've come for peace on the earth? No! I have come to set a fire; how I wish the blaze were ignited!”

Coming into contact with real, living, risen Son of God in the words of Sacred Scripture, in the community of faithful believers, in the miracle of the Most Holy Eucharist, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of the One who paid the price to bail me out of the prison of sin, death, and despair - I can't be confronted with all that and remain calm and unruffled!!

The dejected disciples on their Easter walk to Emmaus learned that when He told them: "How foolish you are and how slow to believe." They weren't same afterwards, "Weren't our hearts on fire as He spoke to us along the way as He opened the Scriptures and as we came to know Him in the Breaking of the Bread?!!"

Ya see ... Peter's mother-in-law wasn't sick with a fever. She was sick with a listless, bored, tired, in-a-rut, half-hearted, checked-out spirit. Jesus touched her and she was set on fire with a desire to be near Him, to serve Him, to give Him her all, her best, her everything. THEN she caught a fever ... THE FEVER ,, and she had never felt better or more alive in all her life.

I dare you. Let Him touch you. Let the sword of His word cut you. Let the Bread of His Life fill you. Let the blood of His love boil in you.

Catch THE FEVER ... you'll never be the same ... never again the same-old same-old!!!!