

## Monday Week 14 of Ordinary Time

Readings: Mt. 9:18-26



### Reflection

This early 4<sup>th</sup> Century fresco comes from the catacomb of Sts. Marcellinus and Peter, Rome, and depicts the moment when the woman who had been haemorrhaging for twelve years, was healed, when in faith, she touched the hem of Jesus' garment. The Gospel illustrates how the power of Jesus comes forth and heals. Today, in the sacraments we too are touched by Jesus (c.f. CCC 1115) so appropriately this picture introduces the part of the Catechism which explains the Church's teaching on the sacraments.

It is truly wonderful that we have this Gospel as we are able to return to and be touched by Jesus when we receive Him in Holy Communion. The Catechism describes the sacraments as "power that come forth from the Body of Christ... actions of the Holy Spirit at work with His Body, the Church... the masterwork of God" (CCC 1116). The many weeks and months without the sacraments must not dull us to the riches they give us, for they change us – not necessarily physically – but build us up spiritually, drawing us closer to Jesus Christ who leads us to His Father, by the Holy Spirit. That is the goal of our existence. If we are still not able to return to Mass, or don't feel comfortable about receiving the Eucharist in the current circumstances, the Lord knows this. We are fed in two ways, by the table of the Word and by the table of the Altar. "Man cannot live on bread alone," as Jesus said to the tempter in the desert, "but on every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew. 4:4, referring to Deuteronomy 8:3). Let us then continue by God's grace, to meditate on the words of Sacred Scripture and if we can, to feed on the richness of the sacraments.

Carol Ann Harnett 6th July 2020