

Ann Jillian, an actress and singer was doing her daily exercise at a health club in March of 1977 when she noticed a growth on her body. This discovery was shocking and frightening. Immediately she thought it was cancerous.

The very next day she made an appointment to see her doctor. On the way to the clinic she stopped by St. Francis De Sales Catholic church to say some prayers. As she entered the church she spotted an inscription hanging over the door.

“The same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Either he will shield you from suffering or he will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.”

Those words comforted her as she went inside and knelt before the blessed sacrament. While she prayed for grace she felt a deep inner calm come over her.

Two weeks later Ann underwent a successful surgery for a double mastectomy. Her radiant trust in God got her through the worst of it.

Hearing this story, I immediately think of the words that Jesus spoke to Jairus in our gospel today after he learned that his daughter had died.

“Do not be afraid. Just have faith.”

These 7 simple words can offer all of us in this church a sense of peace as we face a problem or bear a heavy cross. The Lord has a message for us “Do not be afraid, just have faith.”

If we have faith in God and listen to his directive to believe in his power; then we will experience God at our side ready to do what is best for us.

It is a message that is conveyed in this verse by Mark Link.

The road of life was bright; It stretched before my sight

The Lord was at my side; to be my friend and guide;

And so I started out.

But then the sky grew dark; the road grew rough and steep;

Rocks and ruts tripped my feet; my legs grew sore and weak;

I scarce could carry on.

I turned and cried my Lord; Why this pain? Why this plight?

Why the ruts? Why the rocks? Where's the road? Where's the light?

I cannot carry on.

Then the Lord turned and said, "My child where is your faith?

Where's your belief in me?

Love chose this road for you. Just trust and travel on."