

Fr. O'Connor's Homily - February 2, 2020
The Feast of the Presentation

One day, when Jesus was at home, a man named Jairus came up to Him and pleaded with Jesus to come to his home. You see his 12 year old daughter was dying and he was desperate. You may remember this story. One of Jairus' servants came to Jairus and told him his daughter was dead and continued by saying, "Don't trouble the teacher any longer."

But then Jesus spoke up, "Fear is useless, what is needed is trust." Then Jesus took the hand of the little girl and called out to her, "child arise" and the breath returned.

Sometimes when I feel anxious, I say these words to myself, "Fear is useless, what is needed now is trust." I'm convinced that most of us, probably all of us, are affected with an excess of anxiety that it is at the route of many of our diseases and even our sins. Anxiety plays a huge part in our anger and our gossip, in our greed and our lust, our loneliness and so much else.

Anxiety plays a huge part in the monkey running around in our brains, in our "stinkin' thinkin'", in our fear of death, in losing our good name etc. etc.

I see today's Feast of the Presentation as a solution to this darkness we call anxiety. Today's Psalm sings out, "O gates lift up your lintels...that the King of Glory may enter." Jesus is brought into the Temple. Jesus the Light of revelation in the darkness, the glory of his people."

Don't we walk too much in the land of darkness? Don't we walk too much in the Land of Anxiety?

Now here is what I ask you to do, Let the King of glory enter into your anxiety, your darkness. Beg Jesus the Light to come into your fear, your uncharitableness, your gossip or greed or whatever darkness/anxiety has hold of you.

Let the King of glory enter. Beg Him to come.

Do it as you return to your seat after receiving Jesus in the Eucharist. Jesus the light of Revelation to us.

Fear is useless, what is needed is trust.