

The story in today's Gospel about the raising of the widow's son in the town of Na'im has an interesting parallel. Just a couple of miles away, and 800 years before, as recounted in the Second Book of Kings, the prophet Elisha was asked to raise a dead boy. First he sent his staff - to no effect. Then he went himself and prayed. To no effect. Then he laid across the dead body and breathed into the boy's mouth - and finally the child was raised.

Elisha was known as a 'wonder worker' that is, someone who performed miracles ... and his presence in that area 800 years before would not have been forgotten in Our Lord's time.

And so, here in the Gospel, Jesus walks right up to the dead boy ... no staff ... no contact ... no breathing ... but at His Word, the boy is restored to life.

This places Him above the Old Testament prophet ... right in his own back yard.

Tying this in with the reading from St. Paul in First Corinthians, about how we are the Body of Christ.

Considering this in light of the Gospel reading - we should consider part of our Christian mission the raising of the dead. Maybe not necessarily those who are physically dead ... but rather those who are emotionally dead, spiritually dead, and socially dead. As members of Christ's Body, we have a responsibility to bring His Life to those around us ... and many people are in a sense the 'walking dead' in many aspects of their lives.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us ask for the grace of healing ... for ourselves, but also for those with whom we interact with daily.

May we be the hands and feet of Christ ... bringing His Divine life from this place to any and all in need that we may encounter throughout our daily life.