

THEME: "TEACHER, DO YOU NOT CARE THAT WE ARE PERISHING?" - MARK 4:38

On this 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Church offers us the account of Jesus calming the storm at the Sea of Galilee. It is one of four miracles that follows Mark's section of the parables in Mark 4:35-5: 43. This episode that narrates Jesus calming the storm of the sea is also found in the other synoptic Gospels: Matthew 8:23-27 and Luke 8:22-25.

According to Mark, the calming of the storm took place in the evening: "On that day, as evening drew on, Jesus said to his disciples: 'Let us cross to the other side.'" I know for sure; it's frightening to get caught up in the storm at sea even during the day, let alone in the evening, which for me is more frightening. One can understand and empathize with the reaction of the disciples who turned to their divine Master. Since some of them were professional fishermen, it seemed to me initially, they tried to contain the storm until eventually they could not. Then they turned to their Master, Jesus, who they knew had power to save their life. Jesus was able to fall asleep in this rough storm. One may wonder, just like the disciples, how Jesus could sleep on a cushion in the midst of this deadly storm at sea. Yes, Jesus could sleep because he was not afraid of the storm. He has power over the wind and the water. He is truly in charge of Mother Nature! His heavenly Father will never let him perish.

Mark tells us that the disciples woke Jesus and said to him: "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" In Luke, we read: "Master, Master, we are perishing!"-Luke 8:24, and in Matthew: "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" You may notice both Luke and Matthew softened the disciples' requests. The common theme in all these synoptic Gospels with regard to Jesus' disciples request is the cry for help; they're dying. They need their divine master, Jesus, to rescue them, save their life. Jesus answered their cry/prayer by rebuking the wind and calming the turbulence of the sea by a mere word: "QUIET! BE STILL." In this miracle story, like all other miracle stories, Jesus reveals his power over the forces of evil. He is truly the Son of God.

For the early Christians, this miracle was a very relevant and important one. They saw the "BOAT" as representing the Church and the "STORM" as the persecutions unleashed by the forces of evil on the boat to wreck it. Just as Jesus saved his disciples, he will certainly save them also, if only they turn to him.

Beloved, no one is immune from the storms of life. One may say because she/he goes to daily Mass, prays the rosary daily etc., she/he will not go through trials and tribulations. Remember, Jesus was with his disciples when they almost died from the deadly storms. The disciples gave us a model to follow. When we meet storms in life, namely trials and tribulations which may come in the forms of poor health, family problems, problems at work, to mention a few, please remember to turn to our divine Master, Jesus. I do know today, we are blessed with many professionals who help us with our concerns, but, ultimately, Jesus is the best. These professionals are God's gifts to us. Even before you seek professional assistance, kindly pray to God for this professional person you will be seeing. Just like you, they also need divine assistance to do the right thing for you. Again remember, Jesus will rescue you as he did for his disciples. All he needs from us is faith and trust in him. He does not ask us to have great faith but to have faith the size of a mustard seed; he will answer your prayers. M. Gandhi put it so beautifully: "A person with a grain of faith in God never loses hope because he ever believes in the ultimate triumph of truth."

This action of Jesus in today's Gospel reminds us of what God told Job in the first reading that He, God, is the all-powerful One and placed all things under his mighty hands. Many of us, if not all, know very well the story of Job. The Book of Job speaks of Job, a righteous man. God blessed him with a beautiful family and great wealth. The devil, Satan, challenged God that Job loved him because of his abundant blessings to him. God refused that! God has full trust in Job's fidelity to him. Job went through untold sufferings; life became all darkness, but he never gave up his faith in God. **JOB REALIZED PEOPLE CAN'T UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING BUT MUST NEVER LOSE HOPE, FAITH IN GOD'S LOVE, JUSTICE, AND MERCY.** In today's reading, Job learned to continue to place his life and everything in God's hands. Job eventually won the battle over Satan. With total trust and faith in God and his beloved Son, no matter the storms of life, we will sail through safely.

If you recall the second reading of this past weekend, Paul tells us to "WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT." That's what the disciples did, and Jesus saved them from the deadly storm. In today's reading, he defends himself against false preachers who try to pollute the minds of the Christians in Corinth. These preachers regard Jesus as just a miracle worker. He condemns this false teaching. He reminds them and all of us that Jesus shows his unconditional love by dying for us. We must imitate that love also. We must be willing and ready to die for him and our brothers and sisters.

Beloved, we must always learn to surrender our entire life to Christ, not just when we're going through trials and tribulations. A couple of years ago, someone told me during the weekend of 9/11, all churches were full. Then a couple of months later, some folks stopped going to Church. Hmm!

During this week, reflect and meditate on the Gospel reading of today. Ask yourself, where in your life you need Jesus to “rebuke the storm and calm the Sea” for you? Like the disciples, invite him also: “Teacher, do you not care that I am perishing?”

May Holy Mother Mary and her beloved husband, St. Joseph, continue to pray for us to have the courage and faith always to turn to their beloved Son, Jesus Christ, in our joys and sorrows. Amen

What’s Happening at Holy Rosary

Our Father’s Day Blessing last weekend at mass was followed by a fantastic breakfast in Marist Hall. Thanks to all who worked to make this event a success!

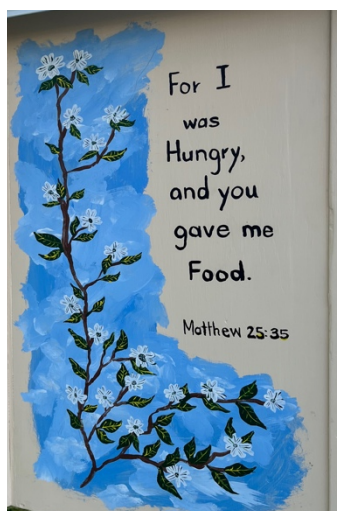


Check out our beautiful procession cross and candle sticks! These Holy Rosary originals were showing their age. We took them to Pittsburgh to be refinished and they are back in our sanctuary, shining with the care and attention they deserve to adorn our altar.



It’s finally installed - our new Holy Rosary Blessing Box, that is!

Have you seen the Blessing Boxes around town? These boxes contain non-perishable food items, along with hygiene items like toothpaste and deodorant. Our neighbors in need can stop by the Blessing Box and pick up items to help them along the way. Our parishioners, in turn, can share what they are blessed with by placing items in the blessing box. It’s a blessing for everyone!



Our Holy Rosary Blessing Box was lovingly crafted and built by Joe Broslawsky and painted by Shirley Lundell. Thanks to them and to the men of the parish who installed it near the parking lot by the garage. Now let’s share our blessings!