

Reflection for 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time 9/Matthew 14: 22-33

We have experienced some storms in our lives. Certainly, I have, innumerable times. At times questioning, where are you, Lord? Just recently, going through a difficult situation, I have had doubts. Of course, going through a serious illness it's not only a storm for the one going through it but also for the loved ones too. My reflection of such situations at first was on the sea of Galilee reading this Gospel Passage it dawned on me the various storms we all encounter.

Going through my current situation I was totally insular 'me moment' until I met a young mother, who after giving birth was informed that her young child has a serious heart defect and needs surgery, she was beside herself with worry and my worries pale into insignificance. One has only to look around too and see our brothers and sisters experiencing their storms, such as those in Yemen who are starving to death and this pandemic has not helped either for those who have lost a loved one. Like the disciples on the boat in our Gospel, if we would turn to Jesus who will come us if we call out to Him, He would reply, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid'.

This raises the question, was Jesus ever afraid? Yes, he was, and in such situations what did he do and how did he cope? On two instances Jesus was afraid on both occasions he prayed to his Father and in prayer, he got the strength to carry on and face the difficulty. In Gethsemane, the prayer before his passion and crucifixion when he said, 'Let this cup pass me by but not my will but yours be done'. On another occasion, he said, 'Now my soul is troubled' it's a bit of a shock but even on this occasion Jesus prayed to the Father and recovered his strength. When we encounter our storms and difficulties, we ought to pray as Jesus did, and we get the strength to carry on.

When we are confronted with our storms and difficulties, we tend to forget Jesus and our blessed Mother and I have to admit that I have been guilty of it too. On one occasion years ago, speaking with Late Fr Derek McClughen I said, 'Jesus, is either having a siesta or is on vacation', He smiled and quoted, Matthew 14: 22-33 and promptly told me don't give up pray. It's true and I can say, PRAY Jesus and Mary will not abandon us. When faced with a difficult situation, we have to remind ourselves that Jesus prayed to his Father.

St John Mary Vianney faced a torrid time in the seminary before his ordination since he was bad in Latin and even in Theology. He had to be tutored privately and finally, he was Ordained. He was parish priest of Ars when became renowned for his preaching and hearing confessions. Many, came from all around France to hear him and make their confession. Today, he is the patron Saint of Priests.

In those times of our difficulties and storms let us turn to Him in prayer and pour it all out to Him, and hear Him say to us, 'my child I am here, don't worry. And as St Padre Pio often said, 'Pray, Hope and don't worry', for worry is useless.

Fr. Christopher Silva

“Do this in remembrance of me” (1 Cor 11:24). Do! The Eucharist is not simply an act of remembrance; it is a fact: the Lord’s Passover is made present once again for us. In Mass the death and resurrection of Jesus are set before us. Do this in remembrance of me: come together and celebrate the Eucharist as a community, as a people, as a family, in order to remember me. We cannot do without the Eucharist, for it is God’s memorial. And it heals our wounded memory. The Eucharist first heals our orphaned memory. We are living at a time of great orphanage. The Eucharist heals orphaned memory.”

Pope Francis