

A Real Force of Nature

One of the forces of nature that we have been unable to control is unruly water. We are actually helpless when caught between torrents of rain from above and surging water from below. It is no wonder the ancestors of ancient Israel who lived between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers characterized cosmic evil as tumultuous water that only the great creator-God could control. This is the scene described in the reading from Job. This water is not destroyed; it is only harnessed. We will have to wait for the end of time for such water to be abolished. (“The sea was no more,” Revelation 21:1.) This divine power over water is praised in the psalm response as well.

Belief in God’s absolute power over chaotic water and cosmic evil lies behind the story of Jesus calming the sea. This story doesn’t simply recount a display of Jesus’ extraordinary command over the forces of nature. It is certainly that, but it is actually much more. It stands to reason that, if only the great creator-God can exercise control over this fearsome watery threat, and if Jesus can effortlessly exercise control over such water, then Jesus is somehow this great creator-God. In today’s Gospel, the audacious disciples, who initially were frightened by the ferocity of the squall, were astounded by Jesus’ authority over the storm. They declared, “Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?” (Mark 4:41).

It is clear from this story that Jesus is the real force of nature.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ✦ Spend some time thinking about how Jesus has protected you from harm.
- ✦ Pray for the grace to trust in God.



He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Quiet! Be still!” The wind ceased and there was great calm.

MARK 4:39

Dear Padre,

Our parish used to be united. Now we have Filipino Catholics, Vietnamese Catholics, and Mexican Catholics, all with their own Masses and activities. Why can't we just be Catholic?

The word *catholic* means "whole," "universal," "complete." To be Catholic, we must include everyone. I once served as a pastor of the only Catholic parish in a town of 20,000 people, more than half of whom were Catholic. The seventeen Baptist churches included a First Southern with services only in English, a First Baptist with services only in English, a First Baptist with services only in Spanish, and a Southern Baptist with services only in Spanish.



CNS / KAREN CALLAWAY

The Catholic Church goes out of its way to make sure that never happens to us and that all people feel part of the Church. One way to make a person feel welcome is to offer Mass in his or her native language, which is why my parish offered Masses in Spanish and Vietnamese as well as in English.

It wasn't just about language or nationality. We had Sunday-evening Mass to accommodate the many

people who worked Sunday mornings. And we also had events that brought the entire parish together. The result was that we had six weekend Masses rather than six different communities.

It's difficult to form one Church. It's difficult to be Catholic. But for 2,000 years we've found it to be worth it. Culturally diverse faith communities acknowledge our differences; more importantly, we celebrate our Catholic wholeness through this diversity!

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSSR

Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Do not be afraid of migrants. Migrants are those who always bring us richness....Today there is the temptation to build a culture of walls, to raise walls, walls in the heart, walls on the land....And those who raise a wall, who build a wall, will end up a slave within the walls he has built, without horizons.

DIALOGUE WITH TEACHERS AND STUDENTS, APRIL 6, 2019

Calendar

Monday

JUNE 21

St. Aloysius Gonzaga,
Religious

Gn 12:1-9 • Mt 7:1-5

Tuesday

JUNE 22

Weekday

Gn 13:2, 5-18

Mt 7:6, 12-14

Wednesday

JUNE 23

Weekday

Gn 15:1-12, 17-18

Mt 7:15-20

Thursday

JUNE 24

Nativity of

St. John the Baptist

Is 49:1-6

Acts 13:22-26

Lk 1:57-66, 80

Friday

JUNE 25

Weekday

Gn 17:1, 9-10, 15-22

Mt 8:1-4

Saturday

JUNE 26

Weekday

Gn 18:1-15 • Mt 8:5-17

Sunday

JUNE 27

Thirteenth Sunday

in Ordinary Time

Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24

2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15

Mk 5:21-43 or

5:21-24, 35b-43

**Know Someone
Overly Anxious About Sin?**
Since 1964, the Redemptorists' *Scrupulous Anonymous* free monthly newsletter has ministered compassionately to those struggling with scrupulosity. To subscribe, visit ScrupulousAnonymous.org.