

August 3, 2020 – Monday of the 18th Weekday in Ordinary Time



**“Being focused on the Lord at all moments of our life, and experiencing true joy in Him”
(Jer 28:1-17 and Mt 14:22-36)**

St. Peter's life certainly was filled with much excitement, twists, and turns. As a fisherman, he had his fun going for fishing with his companions, he would have days when their nets would have a great catch, he would also have those dry days when fishing was not possible or nothing was caught and he also had his adventurous days, when the storms would beat wild, and waves would toss. Days were really simple and perhaps even, a little monotonous when he was a mere fisherman till, he met the Great Fisherman of Galilee, Jesus. The charm of Jesus' looks and the depth of His voice had enamored him.

He had been with Him through many interesting segments of life. It was a wonder to be captivated by His deep talks, an honor to witness His awesome wonders, and a privilege to be part of His soul-saving deeds. He had been part of one of the most amazing of His deeds, which Matthew describes in his Gospel (Mt 14: 13-21) - Feeding dozens and dozens and dozens of men, and women and children with mere five loaves and two fish and leaving a dozen of baskets of leftover.

Jesus made him challenge his set-pattern of thinking, forced him to look at life larger, and enticed him to trust in God much more deeply. And after this wonderful miracle of food and faith, Jesus retired to Rest and Relax with the Person His Father in Heaven.

But Peter and his companions were in here. The dozen of them were in a rickety boat struggling against the waves and storms. **How much these storms and waves resemble the occasional difficulties and hazards of our lives. And as we are struggling, we are awestruck by a figure moving over the waters and our natural instincts make us fearful.**

The companions of Peter could not see any figure beyond a ghost in it. But then, **Peter's ears heard the impactful voice of Jesus: "Courage! Do Not Fear! It is I!"**. **"His voice is magical. His voice is assuring"** And he was drawn to Him more and more every time. He bid Him to help him to walk with Him on the water. His companions

mocked him. But he did not care. Because he loved Jesus. He loved to walk with Him. And he did not mind even if it was on the waters. He took his first steps walking towards Him, towards Jesus whom He loved. He was walking on the water.

However, when he saw the mighty winds, he got frightened and cried out, “Lord, save me” (Mt 14: 30). Immediately, the Gospel says, “Jesus stretched out His Hand and caught him and said to him ‘O you of little faith, why did you doubt?’” (Mt 14: 31) Here was life throwing a mighty challenge to Peter: Whether he could trust in God or not? Whether to continue ahead in life or not? Whether he could have his focus on God or not? As long as he had his focus on the Lord, things were fine. But the moment, he wavered in this “focus”, Peter began to sink.

The boats of our Christian lives often pass through the stormy waters of problems and difficulties. There will be many moments when our faith makes attempts “to walk on the waters” with the Lord. **1. As long as we keep our focus on Him, things would be fine. 2. As long as we don’t look at the waters and instead look on to Jesus, things would be good. But the moment there is a “deviation” in this focus – there will be the “sinking” experience.** Can we grow in our trust in being always focused on the Lord?

Life in Him is about walking and looking at Him. Life in Him is about taking the risks and looking at Him. Life in Him is about growing constantly in our faith and trust and looking at Him. Life in Him is about knowing that He is with us in the storms of life and yet remain constantly, looking at Him.

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, I bring all those things in my life that cause me to lose sight of You and to sink. Let me turn my eyes to You and keep my heart fixed on Your word and learn how to ride any storm that comes to me in life by the power of the faith and by remembering Your words “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” and hold onto them. Lord restore calm in my life.

Jesus, I Trust In You