

The Paper Pulpit

(Reflections from the Pastor)

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture: *Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately he spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." Matthew 14:22-33*

Meditation: Does the Lord seem distant when trials or adversity come your way? It was at Jesus' initiative that the disciples sailed across the lake, only to find themselves in a life-threatening storm. Although they were experienced fishermen, they feared for their lives. While Jesus was not with them in the boat, he, nonetheless, watched for them in prayer. When he perceived their trouble he came to them on the sea and startled them with his sudden appearance. Do you look for the Lord's presence when you encounter difficulty or challenges?

This dramatic incident on the Sea of Galilee revealed Peter's character more fully than others. Here we see Peter's impulsivity — his tendency to act without thinking of what he was doing. He often failed and came to grief as a result of his impulsiveness. In contrast, Jesus always bade his disciples to see how difficult it was to follow him before they set out on the way he taught them. A great deal of failure in the Christian life is due to acting on impulse and emotional fervor without counting the cost. Peter, fortunately, in the moment of his failure, clutched at Jesus and held him firmly. Every time Peter fell, he rose again. His failures only made him love the Lord more deeply and trust him more intently. The Lord keeps watch over us at all times, and especially in our moments of temptation and difficulty. Do you rely on the Lord for his strength and help? Jesus assures us that we have no need of fear if we trust in Him and in his great love for us. When calamities or trials threaten to overwhelm you, how do you respond? With faith and hope in God's love we can.

Feast Day and Holy Day: This Thursday, August 14th is the Feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe. On Friday, August 15th is the Assumption of Mary into Heaven, a holy day of obligation. There will be a combined Mass on Thursday evening, at 5:30pm to celebrate both. The Mass on Thursday fulfills the obligation for the Assumption. There will be a 8:00 am Mass on Friday for the Holy Day.

I received a first class relic of St. Maximilian. I asked Chuck Oswald to build a reliquary under the statue of St. Maximilian Kolbe on the right side of the church. The relic will be placed in the reliquary during Thursday evening Mass.

Liturgical Ministers Pictures: Next week we will be taking a photo after each Mass of all Liturgical Ministers. If you are an usher, greeter, reader, Eucharistic Minister, choir member or anyone else I may have forgotten that is involved in liturgy. If you know of any liturgical minister who is not at Mass this week, please pass this information on as there will be no formal invite going out. It should only take a few minutes. I will also give an update on the directory at the end of Mass.

Servers tubing trip this Wednesday: Just a reminder to all Mass Servers to let Deacon Rich know by this Sunday if you are going on the tubing trip on Wednesday. An email was sent to all parents last week.

Homebound, nursing home & hospital visits: Anyone wishing for a pastoral visit from Deacon Rich or myself should contact Deacon Rich. None of the area hospitals or nursing homes are allowed to contact the parish for legal reasons (confidentiality). We are most happy to make a pastor visit for anointing, prayer and reception of Holy Communion for any reason. We can only visit if we know your wishes. Please let us know!

Want to have a better understanding of your faith? Want to be able to share your faith with others, but don't feel qualified? Know someone who wants to know more about the Catholic Church?

Channel 19 – Eternal Word Television Network – 24 hour Catholic Television

93.9 FM – Relevant Radio – 24 hour Catholic Radio

Both the television and radio are great ways to learn more about your faith.

RCIA: Are you (or someone you know):

- an unconfirmed adult in the Catholic Church and wish to be confirmed?
- from another Christian denomination interested in joining the Catholic Church?
- Catholic but not confirmed and are getting married in the Catholic Church?
- non-Catholic and married to a Catholic and have been attending Mass with them?
- not baptized and would like to be?

We would love to have you part of the Church and our parish community. Please contact Fr. Jim as soon as possible to learn more about joining the Catholic Church.

God's blessings, Fr. Jim Trempe