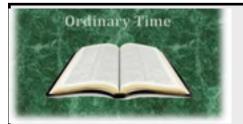


Do we have the courage to place our trust in the Lord? Peter thought he had enough courage when he stepped out of the boat as it was tossed on the waves during a violent storm. But he became frightened and started to sink. Though he began to doubt, he cried out to Jesus and the Lord saved him. When we doubt, may we look to our Savior for strength.



Cycle A -- Reflections on the Readings

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kings 19:9,11-13; Psalm 85; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:22-33

Theme: Reach out to Jesus

Dale Carnegie relates in his famous book "How to stop worrying and start living," the resilience of a discouraged and disheartened book salesmen John R. Antony. Antony was selling law books to lawyers. He Knew about his job thoroughly, but some how he never made much sales. Day by day, he was discouraged. He doubled and redoubled his efforts, but still his efforts never paid off. A sense of fear and dread engulfed him. He became afraid to call on people. Before he went to the prospective client, the dread became so strong that he had to pace up and down the hallway outside the door or go out of the building and circle the block. Even when he went in, often, he would wish that his client wouldn't be in the seat.

The sales manager threatened to stop his advances if he didn't send in more orders. He started worrying. His wife complained that she was not able to pay the grocery bills and it was becoming difficult for her to look after their three children. With decreasing sales, Antony neither had money to pay his hotel bills nor did he have money to go back home. One night he came back to the hotel room. He was completely broken and depressed. He did not even wish to live. The only reason he did not commit suicide was because he did not have the courage to do so.

Since he had no one else to turn towards, he turned towards God. He began to pray. He asked God to give him light and understanding and guidance through the dark, dense wilderness of despair. He asked God to help him to get orders and to give him money to feed his wife and his three children.

After the prayer he opened his eyes and saw the Bible on the dresser in the hotel room. He opened the Bible and read Matthew 6:25-33. Continued.....

As he read and prayed over those words of Jesus, a miracle happened. His nervous tension fell away. His anxieties, worries and fears were transformed into heart-warming courage and hope and triumphant faith. That night he went to bed and slept soundly.

From then on, he never turned back. Twenty-two years later he confessed this truth: "That night I had become suddenly aware of my relationship with God. A mere man alone can easily be defeated, but a man alive with the power of God within him is invincible. I know. I saw it work in my own life." Antony from his sinking state reached out to Christ and Christ lifted him up."

Today's readings focus on people filled with fear. The common antidote for these encounters with fear is the divine presence. The healing presence of God defeats despair and dispels discouragement.

We read in the Gospel that Jesus sent the disciples in the boat and he went on the mountain and was praying until three in the morning. Later, Jesus walked over the water and found the disciples fighting a losing battle against the storm. Fear had engulfed them. His presence calmed the sea and gave them freedom from fear.

Meanwhile, Peter desired to walk on the sea and when he walked on the water, he began to drown. Then he reached out to Christ by crying, "Lord! Save me"; he was rescued by Christ.

Jesus had a great concern for his disciples

Jesus had a great love and concern for his disciples. He rebuked them when they made mistakes, but He loved them, nevertheless. When Peter impetuously asked Jesus to command him to walk on water, Jesus gave him permission to walk on the water; it is only when Peter began to doubt, and drown in the water, that Jesus rebuked him for his lack of faith.

Jesus helps—-When Peter began to drown, he cried out to Jesus for help. Immediately, Jesus stretched out His hand and helped him. Anyone who cries out to Jesus for help will always find the saving power of Jesus. Continued.....

God depends on human beings to help realize God's plan for the world. Believers are challenged to radiate God's comforting presence and thus offset the fear that plagues the world. When we reach out to Jesus for help, He always will help us.

Let us pray to Jesus: "When other helpers fail, and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, O Jesus! Abide with me."

MOTIVATION FOR THE WEEK!!!

It takes "20 years" to build a reputation and "5 minutes" to ruin it. If you will think about that this week, you may do your things very differently."

In his book, Man's Search for Meaning, Dr. Frankl wrote about the life as a prisoner in a Nazi concentration camp of World War II. His mother, father, brother, and pregnant wife were all killed in the camp. Dr. Frankl describes in chilling detail how his captors took from him virtually everything of personal value and basic human dignity. The only thing that the Nazis were unable to take away was his choice as to how to respond to the deprivation, degradation, and trauma to which he was subjected. He made a conscious decision to focus his energies on "owning" that small but all-important space between the stimulus (whatever was said or done to him) and his response to it. His ability or decision to refuse to suffer in the midst of pain was that which distinguished him in life. Suffering is a Choice! Pain is often unavoidable; but suffering is not. Your suffering occurs in response to thoughts such as: "Why me?!" "It isn't fair!" "This is horrible!" "I can't stand it!"

Like everyone, I too have been hurt, in both profound and trivial ways, and in all, the one great lesson that I have leant is that Pain is inevitable but Suffering is optional. Do you know that, you can have a sad story in your past without building your present around it?

If everything you do and all your relationships center around something that hurt you, it will be harder to move on. You may even come to appreciate what that identity gives you: attention, the illusion of understanding, or the warmth of compassion. "When someone hurts you cry a river, but build a bridge, and get over it." When people hurt you over and over, think of them like sandpaper. They may scratch and hurt you a bit, but in the end, you end up polished and they end up useless.

When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it. It is said that, more gold has been mined from the thoughts of men than has been taken from the earth. So, dust off the cobwebs of pain, live not a life of suffering for its time to use all those great suffering ideas, imaginations, and energies you have for a greater good! Choose this week by your life to "Either write, something worth reading or do something worth writing about." Of course, this is free advice and like any free advice it is worth or costs you nothing unless you act upon it. Indeed, Pain is inevitable, but Suffering is optional. Whenever you live in suffering it is like refusing to Build your own dreams and life, but then accepting that someone else hires you to build theirs. If you don't design your own life plan, chances are you will fall into someone else's plan. And guess what they have planned for you? Not much!

May your Week not be Weak but with Him! I send you my prayerful wishes for the week.

Repair update

As we had to have BluSky return for a repair to the kitchen counter, there are two buckets of joint compound that have never been opened. They brought them to use as weight while the glue dried! If anyone has any use (or know anyone who would) for them, they are theirs for the taking:) Help yourself!!!

Coming soon.... August 9——Sunday Mass@ 8:30 am celebrated in the church and on Zoom. August 12—Weekday mass @ 6pm



RCIA – Adult Faith Formation

Anyone interested in knowing more about the Catholic Faith or joining the Church should kindly call the secretary.



Readings for the week of 8-9-20

Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a/Ps 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/Rom 9:1-5/Mt 14:22-33

Monday: 2 Cor 9:6-10/Ps 112:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9 [5]/Jn 12:24-26 Tuesday: Ez 2:8—3:4/Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131 [103a]/Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14 Wednesday: Ez 9:1-7; 10:18-22/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [4b]/Mt 18:15-20 Thursday: Ez 12:1-12/Ps 78:56-57, 58-59, 61-62 [cf. 7b]/Mt 18:21—19:1 Friday: Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63 or 16:59-63/ls 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [1c]/Mt 19:3-12 Saturday: Vigil: 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2/Ps 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14 [8]1 Cor 15:54b-57/Lk 11:27-28. *Day:* Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Ps 45:10, 11, 12, 16 [10bc]/1 Cor 15:20-27/Lk 1:39-56 Next Sunday: Is 56:1, 6-7/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [4]/Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/Mt 15:21-28

ST. MARYS HAPPENINGS

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

CHRIS HINES JOSH SIMMONS JACOB ANDERSON DERRICK HUBARD STEVEN ANDERSON COLBY MCGINLEY

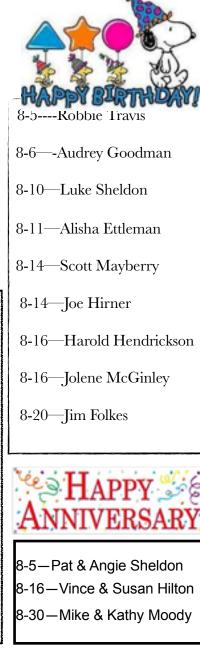
Your Contributions

Aug. 6, 2020

Tithes—\$935.00 Plate—\$2.00 Coffee —\$17.00

Farmers Mkt.—\$38.00

Thank You!!



Requests

Greg Andersen Grady Secht Reese Kemp James Dowling LeRoy Herscheid Noah Howe Mary Lou Miller Dottie Dankof Isacc Durr Nancy Dalton Todd Quick Verona Mitchell Joel Loggins Kenneth Russell Bill Lona Henry Johnsen Lawrence DuBois Pat Sheldon Joe Kirk Tim Konecny Esther McCowan Shawn Collins Drake Travis Martha Gude Bill & Gloria Green Larry Dalton Vickie Graham Glen Whitehead Ronda Shirley Zayne Osborn Cathy Mason Anna Weber Alan Briggs Chuck Mitchell Dee Ann Crews

