

**THANK GOD FOR HIS MARVELOUS LOVE,
FOR HIS MIRACLE MERCY!**

*Twelfth Sunday
in Ordinary Time*



San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

June 21, 2015

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

We can readily identify with the disciples' fear of the "violent squall" reported in today's gospel. Violent waves are breaking over the boat.



Drowning seems a real possibility. The disciples are frightened but Jesus is comfortably asleep "on a cushion".

The disciples thought that Jesus didn't

care that they were "perishing". But Jesus did care; he came precisely to save humanity from perishing. The boat was filling up with water, while the disciples' hearts were empty of the depth of faith needed to be calm, to be still, to know that Jesus surely does care for them. They do not yet know who Jesus is and why he came.

After Jesus commanded the sea to be quiet, "there was great calm". We might surmise that a similar calm washed over the disciples—that their "great awe" brought them to humble silence before this Teacher who had such extraordinary power. The disciples' faith was tested and this became an occasion for them to grow in faith and in knowing who Jesus is.

So it is with us. The "storms" of our own lives become occasions for us to grow in faith and trust that God is ever present to us, calming whatever threatens us, bringing us to a deeper relationship with the God who cares for us. We have an advantage over the disciples in that boat on a stormy sea: we know who Jesus is. But nevertheless we must still ask the critical question: how strong is our faith?

Words to reflect upon:

How strong is *our* faith?

In Praise of Fathers

Let us praise those fathers who manage to balance the demands of work, marriage and children with an honest awareness of both joy and sacrifice. Let us praise stepfathers who freely choose the obligation of fatherhood and earn their step children's love and respect.

Let us praise those fathers who have lost a child to death and continue to hold their child in their heart.

Let us praise those men who are about to become fathers; may they soon openly delight in their children.

Let us praise those fathers who have died but live on in our memory and whose love continues to nurture us.

I REMEMBER JEROME

For as long as I can remember, my prayers have been directed to God the Father. During my childhood, I never questioned this. It just seemed so natural to me. Later on in life I came to know that, for many people, the image of God the Father was a very threatening figure, one to be avoided.

I began to ask why the image of God the Father was so different for me and I came to see that the face of God that I see in my prayers is the face of my father. He was a smiling, upright, gentle, funny man, always filled with joy. The influence of daily living with the good man who was my father taught me about happiness and the great love of God. What a blessing it is to have such a father to model the love of God the Father for you! May we all give thanks for this gift today.

There are also, alas, all too many children today who do not have the blessing of a strong and loving father in their lives. Let us also pray for them today that they may find the reflection of God's love for them in interactions with us. Let us also pray for the men who fathered these children but have not yet been able to be a loving presence in their lives, that they may open their hearts to God's gentle invitation to conversion and healing.

PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE

The Psalms of Peace

Psalm 115: “Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths but do not speak, eyes but do not see. They have ears but do not hear, noses but do not smell. They have hands but do not feel, feet but do not walk and no sound arises from their throats. Those who make them are like them; so are all who trust in them.

Psalm 115 may not seem like a psalm of peace, but it gets right to the heart of the matter. Peacemaking requires faith and trust in the living God of peace, as opposed to faith and trust in the culture of war and its idols of death. Belief in the God of peace in a culture of war and its idols of death, belief in the God of peace in a culture as sick as ours requires simultaneously publicly renouncing belief in the culture[s] false gods of war—the idols of nuclear weapons, drones, AK-47s and other instruments of killing. In other words, as we name our faith in the God of peace, we likewise denounce the culture’s faith in the idols of war. We have to do both if we want to live in peace. — Fr. John Dear

“I therefore encourage you, as you carry out your service of Christian charity, to condemn all that tramples human dignity.”

— Pope Francis to ROACO (Aid to Oriental Churches) 6.15.15

Abiding God, loving renewer of the human spirit, unfold our violent fists into peaceful hands: Stretch our sense of family to include our neighbors; stretch our sense of neighbor to include our enemies until our response to you finally respects and embraces all creation as precious sacraments of your presence. Amen.

Pax Christi

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 1 Timothy 2:1

Let us pray together today for the chronically ill: Sylvia Tasner, Jerry and Albert Vega, Fr. Vega, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, **Maggie Maziarz** and Peter and Leida Fiorito.

Let us join in prayer this week with Puerto Ricans all over the Island and Archbishop González who has asked for a novena for the conversion of hearts for a more Peaceful, Just and Merciful society in Puerto Rico.

Please pray for the sick

PEACE

Ramadan begins this Saturday. For the next 30 days, over 1 billion Muslims around the world will spend the daylight hours in a complete fast, praying, reading the Qur’an and striving for purity in thought and deed. But Ramadan is



much more than just not eating and drinking; Muslims are called upon to re-evaluate their lives.

They are to make peace with those who have wronged them, strengthen ties with family and friends and do away with bad habits—essentially to clean up their lives, their thoughts and their feelings. The Arabic word for “fasting” (sawm) literally means “to refrain” and it means not only refraining from food and drink, but from evil actions, thought, and words.

During Ramadan, every part of the body must be restrained. The tongue must be restrained from backbiting and gossip, the eyes from looking at unlawful things, the ears from listening to idle talk or obscene words, and the feet from going to sinful places while the hand must not touch or take anything that does not belong to it. In such a way, every part of the body observes the fast and the individual complies with his obligation of obedience and submission to God as well as making atonement for his sins, errors and mistakes. Practices worth some contemplation for Christians as well, don’t you think? Seems like that would also be a Gospel step toward better understanding each other.

Small boys become big men through the influence of big men who care about small boys.

Anonymous

ABBA

How wonderful is our God who teaches us to call him “Poppi”!
Straightforward simplicity! Filial trust!
Joyous assurance!
The certainty of being loved!