



21 June 2009

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Parishioners,

Above the desk in my office, I have a framed postcard of today's Gospel in which Jesus calms the sea. The postcard I found in an art studio in Cologne, Germany years ago. I could not afford the original—an enamel work—but the postcard I could!

Over the boat there is a white flag flapping in the wind above a stormy sea. It is the white flag of surrender. Jesus' nimbus or halo, interestingly, is the same color as the flag to show that he learned to live his life out of a deep surrender. His life, anchored in God, was able to weather whatever confronted him; whereas the disciples are found to be overwhelmed and afraid.

In his book, **Beginning to Pray** Anthony Bloom comments on this Gospel saying that the disciples fear they are going to perish because they "let the storm inside" whereas Jesus does not. Jesus must have felt the force of the storm, its threatening nature; but he does not let it inside.

We could all learn from his approach. Too easily we 'sink' because, like the disciples, we let the storm inside. If we could learn to live out of the surrender and trust that defined Christ's life things would be different. Like Christ—who is ever inside us—we would begin to have the faith to know that storms of whatever kind come and go. God alone is constant. God alone brings us through whatever we face.

Father Tim Clank

Pastor