

Monday Week 18 of Ordinary Time (3rd Aug 2020)

Matthew 14:22-36

Reflection

“If you want to want to walk on water, you need to get out of the boat.” This was the title of a talk I once heard. Peter could only walk on the water once he took that first step in faith. One would think that that was faith enough, but in order to continue to make progress, he needed to keep his eyes fixed on Jesus. He needed to keep faithful to that initial calling.

The Lord calls each one of us to Him. It's our vocation. “Vocation” means “calling,” and because of our Baptism we are all called to a life of holiness. We can erroneously think that “being holy” is only for priests, religious and other people, but the Catechism of the Catholic Church clearly states in its opening paragraph, “God, infinitely perfect and blessed in Himself ... freely created man to make him share in His own blessed life. For this reason, at every time and in every place, God draws close to man. He calls man to seek Him, to know Him, to love Him with all his strength. He calls together all people, scattered and divided by sin, into the unity of his family, the Church.”

When God calls us, He gives us the ability to respond. Peter could only step out of the boat and start to walk on the water towards Jesus by the grace that he had received from Him. But, taking his eyes off Jesus and allowing the “storms of life” to distract him, he doubted, and began to sink (v.30). Only when he returned his gaze to Jesus and cried out to Him, was He rescued.

Each one of us is called to do amazing things. As Fr Naz said in yesterday's homily, when in faith we give of the little we have, Jesus takes what we offer, whether that is our material goods or our talents and abilities, or even our ideas. If one tiny virus can change the world, what could we not do by the grace of the Holy Spirit who in Christ, makes amazing things happen. We only need to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, having of course, stepped out of the boat in the first place.