

12<sup>TH</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
June 21, 2009

The evangelist Mark was a translator for St. Peter. As Peter preached to the people, he would share stories of what Jesus said or did, relating those to the situations of those listening to him. Mark wrote these stories down, and eventually arranged them into his Gospel.

The story in today's Gospel passage is a memory Peter had about a time the disciples were weak in faith. Caught at sea in a squall with their boat beginning to sink, the disciples were beginning to panic. They wake Jesus, who had fallen asleep in the stern, and complain bitterly. They feel He does not care about the peril they face. Jesus rebukes the wind and waves, and all is calm. Jesus then questions the disciples' fear, and asks them if they do not yet have faith. The disciples are in awe of Jesus' power and begin to realize that He might indeed be the Son of God.

Mark shares this story, as Peter had also shared this story, with believers who were under severe persecution. Christians were being martyred in great numbers in Rome. The early church was greatly shaken, and some even wondered if Jesus cared about their peril. Despite their many prayers, the Lord seemed to be silent, as if He were asleep. Some lost their faith completely, and many others wavered and questioned. The story is meant to assure them that Jesus has the power to deliver them, and that their troubled times are a test of faith. No final harm will come to those who trust in the power of Jesus to bring them to salvation.

All of us have our storms in life. All of us have at times felt that the Lord was distant, and wondered if He really cared about us. The story is for us as well. Peter and Mark remind us that if we trust, and stay close to Jesus, we may be tested, but ultimately have nothing to fear. The Lord has the power to save us from death itself.

God bless you.

Fr. Pat