

SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2009

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel: Mark 4:35-41



Harvey was celebrating his 100th birthday. Everybody complimented him on how athletic and well-preserved he appeared. “Here’s my secret”, he crackled. “I’ve been going out for a walk every day for 75 years.” Someone asked how he managed to keep up his rigorous fitness regime. “Well,” he said, “My wife and I were married 75 years ago. On our wedding night, we made another solemn vow. Whenever we had a fight, the one who was wrong would go out and take a walk.”

Married or not, we all struggle at times in our relationships. There are conflicts, disagreements, & misunderstandings. There are times of impatience, angers and resentments. We have differences of opinions, personality clashes, and frustrations.

Two of today’s Readings speak about the storms in our lives. In our 1st Reading the Lord speaks to Job out of a storm. The Lord is upset with Job’s questioning attitude and lets him know it. In the Gospel Mark describes a storm on the waters when the disciples were in a boat. He writes that a violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat. The disciples are perturbed and angry with Jesus that he doesn’t seem to care about their safety and well-being. Jesus is asleep on a cushion. Eventually, Jesus rebukes the wind and quiets the sea. Thus, a great calm over the water and among the disciples.



Rembrandt, *The Storm On the Sea of Galilee*, 1633. Oil on canvas, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum (missing since 1990 theft), Boston

Today as we also celebrate Father’s Day, a word of encouragement to you who are fathers. Just know that your presence is vital and valuable to your daughters and sons. You have great influence to bring calm quiet and peace into your homes and in your family relationships. Two phrases that

work miracles of transformation when spoken to your family members are: I LOVE YOU and I AM SORRY. Both of these, when spoken from the heart, bring peace and calm.

My sisters and brothers, Christ continues to calm the storms, turmoil and chaos in our lives and relationships. This week see how often we can be instruments of peace and calm. Be alert to opportunities to transform storms, chaos and a turbulent atmosphere into one of understanding, acceptance, and quiet. If we arrive at our wits end and don't know what else to do, we won't go wrong following the example of the man in our opening story. We can take a walk, cool off, and return refreshed, renewed and healthier. Who knows? We, too, may end up living to be 100. Today is a new beginning.