

Theme: *“Peace! Be Still.”*

June 21, 2015

Job 38:1, 8-11

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Cor. 5: 14-17

**Brothers and Sisters,
*Peace to you All!***

Mk. 4: 35-41

By this time, I should be on a Pilgrimage to Greece, Turkey and Israel, following the Footsteps of St. Paul. Since I did not have the time to make my letter for you on this Sunday, let me share with you the application reflection of Fr. Kevin Sullivan, O.F.M on the readings of this Sunday. Here it is.

There is a very important lesson for every one of us in today's gospel story. Our lives are really a journey across the sea of time to the shore of eternity. During that crossing all who comes to the use of reason encounter some storms. There is no smooth, calm crossing for everyone. This is the will of God. Our Lord knew that a storm was going to blow up that night in the Sea of Galilee. He allowed his disciples to face that terrifying ordeal, because he wanted his future church to have confidence in his divine power and assistance, when tribulations and persecutions would seem to be on the point of ending her forever. Down through the centuries, the Church of God has had to face storms and trials which would have swamped her if she had not a divine Founder and Protector. Christ, however, kept his promise: the gates of hell cannot prevail against her. She survived the storms and as a consequence of them gained new vigor and strength.

That same divine guarantee which Christ gave his church will be with her until the last human being on earth has entered heaven. It is with her today. It will save her from internal weaknesses which could do more damage to her spiritual vitality than open persecution from without could ever do. We know Christ is in the barque of Peter. He is waiting to be called. If we realize that of ourselves we are not able to weather this storm, and call on him, he will rebuke the winds of pride and calm the waves of turbulent self-assertion. The barque of Peter will enter calm waters once more.

What is true in the life of the Church is true also in the life of each member of the Church. God foresees all our life's storms. He permits them, because he is to use them as means to help us in our struggle to reach heaven. If we use these storms or trials of life to come closer to Jesus, to throw ourselves on his mercy, they will serve the purpose for which he permits them. Unfortunately, there are Christians who question not only the goodness of God, but his very existence, when some heavy seas break across their life's barque. "How could God, if He be good," they ask, allow me to suffer like this, I who have been so faithful?" Why should he let me bear all this poverty, all these pains, all this dishonesty of my fellowmen, when a small act of his will could remove it all and make me healthy, happy and prosperous?"

What such a Christian forgets is that God's purpose in creating him was not to make him healthy, happy and prosperous in life, but to give him a share in his own eternal happiness in heaven. If this life were the end and sum-total of man, if all ended with death, then certainly that complaint would have some foundation. However, our human intelligence, and divine revelation, prove to us conclusive that this life is not an end for man but a means with which to attain his real end, perfect happiness.

Therefore, we must not expect to get from life what it cannot give. Instead, we must see what it gives us, the unpleasant as well as the pleasant, the rain as well as the sunshine, the pain as well as the pleasure, as means which will help us to reach our perfect ending, our eternal dwelling-place in heaven. Too often like the disciples that night in the storm, we think that God has forgotten us, that he is not interested in us when storms break around us. In fact, it is then that he is nearest to us. We think he is sleeping and that all is lost, when he is but using this storm to rekindle our faith, and make us realize that we are pilgrims on our way across this earth and not permanent residents here.

Brothers and Sisters, much to my desire that my Sunday letters would be written from my heart, I could not do this for this Sunday. Suffice for to think that the reflection above by Fr. Kevin Sullivan, from whose book I always draw a lot of inspiration, knowledge and wisdom, would also be of great help to you as it has been for me. I will be back with you on the weekend of June 27-28 for our Carnival Weekend. Please support our Carnival Committee in all their hard-work to make our Carnival successful. God bless you all!

With all my prayers,

Fr. Ernie