



A Newsletter from the Missions Office/Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States
Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio

Where in the world is Jesus?

To monthly mission donors: Thank you for your support!

On behalf of His Excellency Frederick F. Campbell, the Bishop of Columbus, and Father Andrew Small, OMI, the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, I would like to thank you for your prayers, sacrifices and financial support for the missions.

Jesus did not suspend the laws of nature when He came into the world. The storms did not stop, though He invented the storm system, the atmosphere, the clouds, and the rain. He could have spared himself the discomfort of slashing rains and howling winds by suspending the laws of nature, but He did not do that. Jesus did not spare Himself from being soaked and cold. Jesus did not spare Himself from the storms of life.

As followers of Jesus, we sometimes expect to get a pass on the tribulations of life. To follow Jesus is not a guarantee of a storm-free life. The truth of the matter is that this life comes with storms. In this life we will have troubles (John 16:33). Storms will come to us. They came to Jesus and to His first disciples.

Jesus made His disciples get into a boat and sent them ahead of Him to the other side of the lake. Later that night, when the boat was far from land, a storm roared in and big waves buffeted it (Matt. 14:22-24).

Sometimes we create our own storms – we drink too much alcohol, we borrow too much money, or we hang out with the wrong crowd. We find ourselves in a storm of our own making.

But this was not the case with the disciples. They were in a storm that was not of their own making. They were in a storm even though and in spite of the fact that they obeyed Jesus who told them to get into a boat and to cross to the other side of the lake. Unlike Jonah, they were not trying to escape God. They were seeking to obey God.

The disciples were like missionaries who go to foreign lands only to have their support evaporate; or business leaders who work so hard and honestly, only to see their efforts outbid by dishonest competitors; or a couple who honors God in marriage, only to have an empty crib; or a student who prepares, only to fall short on the exam. These are disciples who boarded a boat only to sail headfirst into the tempest. Storms come to the obedient.

And they come with a punch (Matt. 14:24). The storm hit the disciples' boat when they were about three or four miles away from the shore (John 6:19). Their boat was riding the raging roller coaster of the Galilean Sea. Under normal conditions, the trip might have taken only an hour. But this time, the disciples boarded the boat in the evening, and at three in the morning, they were still far away from shore.

The disciples deserved credit, though. They did not turn around and go back to the shore. They persisted in obedience, though they fought a losing battle. The storm left them too far from the shore, too long in the struggle, and they were too small in the waves.

Perhaps the disciples wondered where Jesus was. That's what we do when a storm hits us. We wonder where Jesus is. Where in the world is Jesus?

The answer to the question is clear and surprising: Jesus is praying. Jesus had gone up to the mountain to pray (Matt. 14:23). There is no indication that He did anything else. He did not eat, He did not chat, He did not sleep. Jesus prayed. After He served the people all day, He prayed all night.

During storms, Jesus is at the right hand of the Father, interceding for us (Rom. 8:34). To intercede means to bring a specific and passionate request before God.

When we are in a storm, Jesus is at the right hand of the Father interceding for us. The King of the universe is interceding for you. Jesus is urging the help of the Holy Spirit. He is advocating for a special blessing to be sent your way. You do not fight the wind and the waves alone. It is not up to you to find a solution. You have the mightiest and holiest Advocate standing up for you (Acts 7:55).

World Mission Sunday

On behalf of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, I would like to remind your family and friends that World Mission Sunday (WMS) is on October 21.

Approximately two thirds of the world's population, especially in Asia, Africa and in the remote areas of the Americas have not yet heard of the Gospel.

To bring the Gospel to them is the task of Ad Gentes missionaries.

They need our prayers, sacrifices, and financial support in order to accomplish this task - which is the heart of the Church.

Kindly, remind your loved ones and friends to pray for the missions.

Any donations should be sent to:

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

197 E. Gay Street

Columbus, Ohio 43215

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith is the main source of financial support for the missions. The Society does not have any savings. Every penny collected in a given year is distributed to the missions.

Thank you for your help. Someday, in the Name of Jesus, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord!

A Mission Blessing

If in life you are helping to spread the Gospel even to the ends of the earth, you can continue helping by leaving a part of your estate to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

In this life, you may not meet the people you have helped bring to Christ, but you will meet them in

the next. And they will thank you for it.

Through your gift to the missions you help bring closer to the time when "In the Name of Jesus, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord!

Saints were funny

If you think that saints are all gloomy, morose, unsmiling people, think again.

Many saints liked to laugh.

Saint Lawrence was burned to death on a grill, over hot coals. He called out his executioners and told them: "This side is done. Turn me over and have a bite."

Saint Philip Neri acted silly by wearing a foxtail coat in the middle of summer. One young priest asked St. Philip what would be the most appropriate prayer at a wedding Mass, he said: "A prayer for peace."

Pope Saint John XXIII's famous joke was his answer to a journalist's question: "Your holiness, how many people work in the Vatican?" Saint John paused and then said: "About half of them."

On another occasion, someone asked him about the Italian habit of closing offices in the afternoon. "Your Holiness, we understand that the Vatican is closed in the afternoon, and people don't work then?" The Pope answered: "Ah no. The offices are closed in the afternoon and the people do not work in the morning."

After he was elected Pope, he met a boy whose name Angelo. The Pope said to the boy, "That is my name, too. But they made me change it."

Quote:

"I have never been hurt by anything I did not say." ~ Coolidge

Quest:

Why not wear a smile. It's just about the only thing that you can wear that isn't taxed.

Pope Francis' October Prayer intention:

"That consecrated religious men and women may bestir themselves, and be present among the poor, the marginalized, and those who have no voice."

A joke a priest can tell... LOL!

A pastor was completing a sermon on abstaining from drinking alcohol.

With great expression, he said, "If I had all of the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river."

With even greater emphasis, he said, "And if I had all of the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river."

And then finally, he thundered, "And if I had all of the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river."

The church was silent. Not a single congregant made a sound.

The music leader then stood up hesitantly and said, "For our closing song, let us sing the hymn 'Shall We Gather at the River.'"

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