

FROM FATHER DAVE

From the time we are young, we come to see that as human beings we have favorites. That is to say we develop favorite colors, foods, television shows, friends etc. We even have favorite biblical passages.

The Word of God today contains two of my favorite selections. In the first reading from the Book of Kings we hear about Elijah who is told that the Lord will be passing by. As he patiently waits, there is a strong wind, but God is not in the wind. Then there is an earthquake, but the Lord is not in the earthquake. The earthquake is followed by fire, but the Lord is nowhere to be found in it. Lo and behold, the Lord is found in a tiny whispering sound.

What is striking about this story is that God is not found in the extraordinary but the ordinary. Sometimes we can get locked in to looking for God in the extraordinary when more often than not he is found in the everyday events of life. In other words, God is not in the thunder and lightning but in the tiny whispering sounds. In order to behold his presence in these ordinary events it is imperative that we make time and create a space each day to pray.

The second favorite story of mine today comes from the Gospel where Jesus encounters the disciples at sea. When the disciples see Jesus walking on water, they think it is a ghost. They are terrified. Jesus says, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter, the ever impulsive one, gets out of the boat to walk on the water toward Jesus. When he discovers the force of the wind, he becomes afraid and begins to sink. He cries out, "Lord, save me." Jesus extends his hand and says, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

It is easy to have faith when things are going well. Storms and the challenges of life can shake our faith and lead us into doubt. How sad it is when we doubt God. It is equally sad when we doubt ourselves and our own goodness. What is noteworthy is that after they returned to the boat the wind diminished.

One of the long-standing images of the Church is that of the boat. When we allow Jesus into the boat the winds die down. Once again, our faith must always be first and foremost about Jesus and our relationship with him. He believes in us so much. We need to believe in Him.

Tomorrow, August 10, 2020 the Church celebrates the martyrdom of Saint Lawrence, Deacon. Lawrence was one of the seven deacons of the city of Rome under Pope Sixtus II who were put to death during a persecution of Christians by the Roman Emperor Valerian. Saint Lawrence is the patron saint of deacons.

The remembrance of Lawrence's life and death is an occasion for us all to thank our deacons, Deacon Jeff and Deacon Al, for their life and ministry to us. We are blessed to have them on our clergy team. We are blessed to have them preach at all of the Masses this weekend. Thank you, gentleman, for your vocation. We also want to offer special thanks to your wives and family for sharing you with us. God bless you!

Have a blessed week!

SAINT ALPHONSUS FEAST DAY MASS, AUGUST 1, 2020

