

There is still so much pain and confusion around the world. The coronavirus pandemic has caused panic. Under lockdown, people remain in their houses in many countries, even here, in some towns in America, and their spiritual, social and economic lives have been seriously affected. All of us are feeling confused, discouraged and indeed frightened by the coronavirus and by the attempts to prevent its transmission. The news is so disturbing, we worry. We don't know what lies ahead.

This Sunday Gospel passage from Matthew 14 offers us an opportunity to see the current world situation in a spiritual perspective: Why did Jesus walk on the water? We know that there were more ways to let the disciples know that he was with them. We also know that he didn't need to demonstrate any power to them, since they had witnessed many signs already. Why did Jesus walk on the sea? Let us remember the meaning of water for Hebrews.

Life and death depend on water. Without water everything will die and in case of flooding or storm on the sea we may see death. Water is like a huge and powerful creature that only God can control.

In Job 38 God says to Job: Who shut within doors the sea? ... Who set it's limits? The answer is God. When Elijah tried to show to King Ahab and his wife Jezebel that God is God, he used what the Bible says "the sky is closed" and what people can do to open it again? In God we always find the answer.

Today's Gospel should be read as an Epiphany, a manifestation of God. Walking on the sea, Jesus shows that God is working through his ministry. This walking of Jesus on the sea shows us his divinity. What surprises us, knowing as faculty reserved only for God, is that Peter asked Jesus: "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water", and Jesus response was: "Come".

We find the explanation of this response in the second letter of St. Peter 1,4: "Through these, he has bestowed on us the precious and very great promises, so that through them you may come to share in the divine nature, after escaping from the corruption that is in the world because of evil desire". Now, it explains why Jesus's responded to Peter "Come" allowing us to participate in God's nature.

As we see through this perspective, this gospel passage from Matthew 14 shows us that God manifests himself in Jesus and to us, allowing us to participate in his divine nature and reminding us that we have been created in his image (Gen. 1,27) It is through Jesus that our communion and communication with God, broken by sin, has been restored and in Jesus's faith we can get to our destiny in Heaven.

For those who try to live in Jesus's faith, no storm, pandemic, crisis or conflict has the last word and God is not found in the wind, nor in an earthquake, not in the fire but in a tiny whispering sound where God says to us: "Come, don't be afraid"

We are open from Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 1:30pm and **weekend Masses** remain: Saturdays 3:00pm and 5:00pm and Sundays 9:00am, 11:00am and 5:30pm.

Communion under the Portico on Sunday from 12noon to 12:30pm for those who watch the mass on TV (Our diocesan Mass is on Sunday 10:30am on local Fox 4) There is no need to exit your car in the driveway of the Church.

Dispensation from obligation to attend Sunday Mass in the Diocese of Venice in Florida is until September 1st, 2020.

Communal Rosary and Mariam Novena, Saturdays at 8:00am

Sacrament of Reconciliation under the Portico (Driveway without exiting your car) from 8:30am to 9:30am.

Feast of the Assumption, Saturday, August 15th there will be a service dedicated to the Blessed Mother at 8:00am.

Gospel Forum for Women starting Tuesday, August 4 at 9:00am at the Grotto (outside) please, bring your chair and Bible.

Men fellowship Group is meeting online using Zoom on Mondays at 7:00pm. More Information call Ken Navarre at 810-459-4662.

St Paul School of Evangelization will start classes in September. These classes will be online during pandemic. If you are interested to join this institute please call Dr. Sue Ellen Nolan at 239-222-7653.

When you come to church you must remember to bring your face mask and keep it on out of respect to others; practice social distancing when you find a seat and when you come up to receive Holy Communion; use hand sanitizer near to the door once you enter and when you leave the church. Families may stay together and if someone feels sick they should stay home. Your donations and offertory envelopes can be dropped off before or after mass in one of the two boxes located in front of the altar. Your financial support is very appreciated also by mail or electronically, please, contact Sergio Figueroa, the administrative coordinator if you need help.

You can always contact one of the clergy by (239) 634-2927 or me lgonzalez@stcolumbkillie.com

May the Lord give us his strength to walk on the sea of life with no fear.

Fr. Lorenzo