Lord, SAVE ME!
Matthew 14:30

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
AUGUST 9, 2020

Walking on Water, Ivan Aivazovsky (1880)
Christian Faith Walks to Meet the Risen Lord

Pope Francis Reflection on Matthew 14:22-33

This story is a beautiful icon of the faith of the Apostle Peter. In the voice of Jesus who tells him: “Come!”, he recognizes the echo of the first encounter on the shore of that very lake, and right away, once again, he leaves the boat and goes toward the Teacher. And he walks on the waters! The faithful and ready response to the Lord’s call always enables one to achieve extraordinary things. But Jesus himself told us that we are capable of performing miracles with our faith, faith in Him, faith in his word, faith in his voice. Peter however begins to sink the moment he looks away from Jesus and he allows himself to be overwhelmed by the hardships around him. But the Lord is always there, and when Peter calls him, Jesus saves him from danger. Peter’s character, with his passion and his weaknesses, can describe our faith: ever fragile and impoverished, anxious yet victorious, Christian faith walks to meet the Risen Lord, amid the world's storms and dangers.

And the final scene is also very important. “And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God!” (vv. 32-33). All the disciples are on the boat, united in the experience of weakness, of doubt, of fear and of “little faith”. But when Jesus climbs into that boat again, the weather suddenly changes: they all feel united in their faith in Him. All the little and frightened ones become great at the moment in which they fall on their knees and recognize the Son of God in their Teacher. How many times the same thing happens to us! Without Jesus, far from Jesus, we feel frightened and inadequate to the point of thinking we cannot succeed. Faith is lacking! But Jesus is always with us, hidden perhaps, but present and ready to support us.

This is an effective image of the Church: a boat which must brave the storms and sometimes seems on the point of capsizing. What saves her is not the skill and courage of her crew members, but faith which allows her to walk, even in the dark, amid hardships. Faith gives us the certainty of Jesus’ presence always beside us, of his hand which grasps us to pull us back from danger. We are all on this boat, and we feel secure here despite our limitations and our weaknesses. We are safe especially when we are ready to kneel and worship Jesus, the only Lord of our life. This is what our Mother, Our Lady always reminds us. We turn to her trustingly.

St. Laurence

Patron Saint of Poverty • August 10

Laurence was an archdeacon in the third century when Christianity was against the law. In 258, Pope Sixtus was in prison awaiting his death, and Laurence was left as the highest-ranking official in the Roman Church. Knowing his own martyrdom was imminent, Laurence gave away all of the wealth and possessions of the Church so that the authorities could not benefit from them if he were to be slaughtered along with the other officials. Laurence was captured and told to deliver the riches of the Church. He showed up with the sick, lame and indigent and told his captors that these people were the complete wealth of the Church. The strong patron of the poor was put to death that same day.

Prayer to St. Laurence

St. Laurence, you know the true meaning of wealth. You saw riches that resided within people and not the money in their pockets. I ask you to pray, St. Laurence, that we are saved from poverty. Let greed recede from our hearts and show us the bounty of love instead of money. St. Laurence, I beseech your humble prayers. Amen.

Excerpted from Angelus by His Holiness Pope Francis, St. Peter's Square, 10 August 2014

St. Laurence

Deacon & Martyr

Feast of Saint Laurence, Deacon & Martyr

August 10

Memorial of Saint Clare, Virgin

August 11

Memorial of Saint Maximilian

July 19

Notice

Not a Holyday of Obligation this year

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekly Scripture

Sunday, August 9

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131

Psalm 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14

Memorial of Saint Clare, Virgin

Memorial of Saint Maximilian

Memorial of Saint Laurence, Deacon & Martyr

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