

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 13, 2017

Where Is Your Faith?

Today's passages refer to the elements such as strong winds, earthquakes, fire and storms at sea. Those elements are both wonderful and fearful at the same time. As Central Illinois residents, we're familiar with some of those things. We're also familiar with other circumstances well beyond our control such as death, loss of a job, cancer or a geographical move we just don't want to make. As human beings, we really want to be in control of our lives and oftentimes like to trick ourselves into believing that is truly possible. A lack of control is perceived as weakness. When we ask for a "sign from God", we tend to look for the big stuff – a giant white cloud coming down from the sky, a thunder bolt, whatever we might have associated with God as a small child.

Faith is not just for fair weather. It makes its appearance in the midst of turmoil and fear. In order to truly hear the whisper of God, it requires us to be quiet, both physically and in spirit. It also requires us to let go of our own control so we can rely on the strength of God. This is particularly difficult when we want lots of answers and we "want them NOW!" God never promised us freedom from adversity. He promised us the boat to ride in when the waves get rough.

Where is your faith?

Mary Carolyn Garriott