**The Castaway**

There once was a man who fell overboard a ship in a storm at sea. He was floating in the sea and praying for God to rescue him. After a little while, a helicopter was flying by and stopped to rescue him. They called down to him to climb the ladder, but he said, no thank you, God will rescue me. A little while later a boat was passing and called out to him to see if he needed help. He said, no thank you, God will rescue me. Finally, a dolphin came to his side and offered his fin to swim him safely to shore, but again the man said, no thank you, God will rescue me. Shortly after, the man died in the sea. When he got to heaven and met God he was mad at God and said, “Why did you leave me to die in the sea? Why didn’t you rescue me? I trusted you.” God replied, “What do you mean, why didn’t I rescue you? I sent you a helicopter, a boat, and a dolphin, but you refused all three!”

Moral of the story:

God uses physical, tangible things in our lives to communicate his love and give us his grace. This is like the sacraments, which use physical, tangible signs to change us interiorly and give us God’s grace and love.