

## **Nineteenth Sunday in ordinary time**

A man says to God, "God, how long is a thousand years to you?"

God says, "A thousand years to me is like a second to you."

"Oh. God, how much is a million dollars to you?"

"A million dollars to me is like a penny to you."

"Oh. God, can I have one of your pennies?"

Dear Friends,

This weekend is a special weekend for our parish to celebrate our annual festival together with joy and fun. This is a nice opportunity to encounter so many of our parishioners and visitors.

Today's readings take us to reflect about the encounter we have with God in our lives. we hear God in solitude and God's presence within solitude. The old testament reading opens up with Elijah. He was a devoted prophet who finds his life threatened and begins a desert retreat for forty days. He heard the Lord pass by a sound of great silence. He encountered it in the form of whispering wind.

In the Gospel, we hear a similar encounter which the disciples had. After the feeding the people, Jesus told the disciples to go away. This encounter or manifestation happened in two ways. They witnessed the miracle of feeding people and God's presence as well as encountering Jesus in the midst of storm.

God reveals himself in so many ways. there are two things that help us in our faith. 1) Finding God in our life. like Moses, Elijah, and other prophets. The interaction between Jesus and Peter demonstrates the depth of their relationship. This invites us to reflect on our own relationship with Jesus, examining how it influences our responses to fear and challenges. When we look for God, he stretches out himself to be with us. We all know Matthew Kelly, who is a good speaker, wrote a book, "Beautiful Eucharist". He says, "Encountering Jesus in the Eucharist should be like heaven, and that should change the way we live here on Earth. Finding God brings happiness, solace when we are afraid or scared, strengthened while facing challenges.

2) Stepping out of our Comfort Zones: Peter's decision to step out of the boat and walk on water represents a willingness to go beyond his comfort zone and trust in Jesus. We have to examine our own comfort zones and consider how we can stretch our faith by taking bold steps for Christ. Lots of times, we are afraid to take bold steps to live for Christ. Let us reflect about those obstacles that stop us going to God on a regular basis.

In today's world social media, technologies, and other things attract us day and night. People used to say to me that they need a microwave and refrigerator or freezer to live their lives. We all are comfortable with those items. Jesus calls you and me to come out of our comfort zones. He promised to be with us.

God's presence is always in an unexpected way. How are we going to identify God in our life? Jesus is showing Himself every day in the Eucharist, in the Sacraments, and in our different life situations. When you identify Him and respond to Him, He stretched out His hands to us to save us. Going into Eucharistic Adoration will help us to calm down and feel the presence of God in our midst with challenges and struggles.