

Cycle A 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading 1, 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a

At the mountain of God, Horeb, Elijah came to a cave where he took shelter. Then the LORD said to him, “Go outside and stand on the mountain before the LORD; the LORD will be passing by.”

A strong and heavy wind was rending the mountains and crushing rocks before the LORD— but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake— but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake there was fire— but the LORD was not in the fire. After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound. When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went and stood at the entrance of the cave.

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

R. (8) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what God proclaims; the LORD — for he proclaims peace. Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

The LORD himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase. Justice shall walk before him, and prepare the way of his steps.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Reading II, Rom 9:1-5

Brothers and sisters: I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie; my conscience joins with the Holy Spirit in bearing me witness that I have great sorrow and constant anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites; theirs the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; theirs the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

Gospel, Mt 14:22-33

After he had fed the people, Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening he was there alone. Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. “It is a ghost,” they said, and they cried out in fear. At once Jesus spoke to them, “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.” Peter said to him in reply, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” After they got into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, “Truly, you are the Son of God.”

Father Meres Speaking 2008

Brothers and sisters, good morning [good evening].

I bring you prayers and greetings from your sister parish Notre Dame de Fatima in Bassin-zim, Haiti. I want to thank Father John and you for your warm welcome. Here at St. Brendan's I feel that I am with family. In the 4 years we have known each other I can see the impact our relationship has made joining our separate communities into one. I see more and more people involved on both sides bridging the gap between Georgia and Haiti.

I am happy to bring news that since March when Father Rafael and 5 others from St Brendan came to visit Notre Dame, we have made good progress on our projects. The generator is operating from its new building and new wiring has been installed. The generosity of St Brendan's is helping 45 families run businesses including everything from selling kerosene and making cookies, to raising chickens and growing plantains. And, the SEED loan program now includes 12 month loans for farmers with longer business cycles. Also, I am very excited to say that the blueprints are finished for the parish hall and construction can begin. The parish hall will make a huge difference, especially with the youth of Bassin-zim. It will become a much needed gathering spot for education classes, medical clinics and many social activities.

On this visit I must also tell you with great concern how difficult life continues to be in Bassin-zim. We are in survival mode. In the last year food prices have jumped over 80%. People don't have enough money to buy even the basics of rice or beans to properly feed their families. Clean water means boiled water, which is hard to do when wood is rare and charcoal is expensive.... When I visit St Brendan, I am always asked by many people, "Father, what can we do for you?" If I may stop for a minute,

turn the table and ask you, “St Brendan’s, what can the people of Bassin-zim do for you?”

We know that life has a way of tossing us about, like the Disciples boat in today’s Gospel. We can be overwhelmed with the storms of struggle, hunger and suffering. It is the same in Georgia as Haiti. So, what can we do for each other?

The answer to these questions, I think, is the same: “Pray for us.” Pray as Jesus did in today’s Gospel. Pray as the Psalm today, “Lord, let us see your kindness and grant us your salvation.” Even when our faith weakens and doubt causes us to sink, God loves us so much he is there to rescue us. All we have to do is pray to Him.

When we pray, it is with confidence that God will answer us. The answers will come through communities of faith like St. Brendan’s and Notre Dame de Fatima. The needs are great, the hunger and suffering are real, but the Holy Spirit will prompt us to take action according to His will. He won’t let us rest until God’s answer is complete.

“Pray for us.” Could it really be that simple? As people of faith we know, yes it is that simple....and that challenging. *God will provide.*