

Nineteenth Sunday in the Ordinary Time

Our God comes to us not as we expect, but quietly like a whisper. The first reading from the Book of Kings records the prophet Elijah going out onto the mountain to wait for the Lord God to come. He does not appear in the strong heavy wind, or in the earthquake, or in the midst of fire. He comes in a tiny whispering sound. Elijah recognizes God's presence and hides his face. This story can offer us a valuable insight when we search for God in our lives. We hopefully will recognize that He comes in the daily circumstances in which we find ourselves.

Often our doubts can bring about fear, and like the disciples who when experiencing the boat tossing around violently in the sea begin to panic. They take their attention away from Jesus for a moment and begin to sink. They even briefly believe that the one approaching walking on the water toward them is a ghost. Once their eyes are fixed on Him and they recognize Christ, calm is restored. As Peter sees the Lord, he wants to join Him walking on the water and Jesus prompts him to do so. Peter expresses the longing in our hearts to follow the Lord even when fearful and unsure. Fear is replaced by trust.

As Jesus enters the boat, the sea and the wind immediately calm down. The disciples make a profession of faith in Him; "Beyond doubt, you are the Son of God." Trust in the Lord will always calm the storms that find themselves around us. Miracles are possible when trust in Him increases. His presence comes in a tiny whisper but brings about a vivid, beautiful peace.

Peace,

Father Robert

