

12 Sunday B

June 20, 2021

St. Patrick

“Lord, don’t you care?” “Don’t you care that we are perishing?” (1)

Yes, as St. Mark’s Gospel tells it, **“A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped.”**

A violent storm, indeed. We have to face it that we’re being buffeted by turbulent storms, attacking us from varied angles. We feel the force of a storm, leaving us with a genuine anxiety about the future of our nation, and whether democracy will hold up. Who would have imagined that our nation’s Capital would be overrun last January 6th, a violent insurrection storming its hallowed halls, such that members of Congress cowered in hiding, their lives threatened?

“Lord, don’t you care that we are drowning?”

Three years ago, when this same Gospel was last proclaimed on a Sunday, who would have imagined that an unseen enemy would attack the entire globe in Covid-19, bringing the world’s population to its knees in fear? This storm has shaken us, with more than 600,000 of our fellow citizens dying in its fury within our own borders.

“Lord, don’t you care that we are drowning?”

And storms are raging within the Catholic Church of which we are a part. It’s a church I love; and yet, at times I find myself shaking my head in anger, and nodding in agreement with that quotation from Dorothy Day, “...One must live in a state of permanent dissatisfaction with the Church” (2). We are part of a storm crashing upon the church, globally and within our nation, and the boat seems to be swamped by water and thrashing in the violent wind. Are we tempted to bail out?

Yes, Friends, there are multiple storms attacking us from varied angles, including storms which are unique to each of us, or our family. Perhaps no one else knows that such storms are swirling in our lives. They shake us terribly with fear and suffering.

“Lord, don’t you care that we are drowning?”

Jesus brought calm in the midst of the storm, and asked the apostles, **“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?”**

Faith. Jesus shows us faith. In the midst of the storm, **“Jesus was in the stern, asleep on the cushion.”** You see, he could rest because of his deep trust in the heavenly Father. Yes, *in the midst of the storm*, Jesus put his life in his Father’s hands...and he could sleep in peace.

Faith. Our faith is not a guarantee that we will not go under. But it is a promise that Jesus will be with us—nudging us, leading us to make needed choices for our rescue. You see, St. Patrick’s, he’s in the same boat with us.

And, be assured: Jesus knows the storm’s force and intensity. This year we’re following the Gospel of St. Mark. At the other end of this Gospel, Jesus found himself in a far worse storm—as he hung on the cross, his very last words before excruciating violence killed him, **“My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”**

It’s unsettling when the Savior had to wrestle with the *“Why’s”* in life, just as we do.

“Lord, don’t you care that we are drowning?”

Friends: He does care. He’s in the same boat with us. In the midst of our turbulence, Jesus shows us how to hold onto hope in the One worthy of our trust.

-
- (1) See how Sister Miriam Pollard, OCSO, creatively uses this phrase in her article, “A Hard Kind of Prayer,” in *Give Us This Day—June 2021* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2021), pp. 218-19.
 - (2) Dorothy Day, *The Long Loneliness: An Autobiography* (New York, NY: Harper and Row, 1952), pg. 150.

General Intercessions

June 20, 2021

12 Sunday in Ordinary Time

Raise up courageous and compassionate women and men who are zealous for the Gospel, even in the midst of storms waging in our midst; we pray to you, O Lord--

On this first Juneteenth National Holiday in our country, bring about racial justice to our city and nation; we pray to you, O Lord—

Lift up and strengthen our fathers, who have given us life, as we show them respect and love; we pray to you, O Lord—

Console those fathers who have lost a child through death, that their faith may give them hope, and their family and friends support them; we pray to you, O Lord—

Uphold efforts to prevent drug misuse and addiction; we pray to you, O Lord—

Bring to risen life all who have died, especially Lance Forsdick, and all fathers who have died; we pray to you, O Lord—

