

Father Rudy's Reflections

The Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 13, 2023

## Walking Through Life's Storms

My Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

*"When you walk through a storm, hold your head up high and don't be afraid of the dark. At the end of the storm is a golden sky, and the sweet silver song of a lark. Walk on through the wind, walk on through the rain, though your dreams be tossed and blown. Walk on, walk on, with hope in your heart, and you'll never walk alone."*— from song "You'll Never Walk Alone," lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

For some of us, whenever we hear the timeless words of the song "You'll Never Walk Alone," we tend to immediately stop and listen intently because these beautiful words somehow resonate within our hearts. In the words, we find solace and encouragement; they seem to offer us a message of hope that helps us navigate through the storms of life.

On this Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, in this same way, we find great inspiration in today's Gospel, for in Matthew's words, the very essence of our human fears, Jesus's reassuring words, Peter's faltering faith, and the boat that symbolizes the Church, are fully encapsulated. Together they remind us that with unwavering faith in Christ, we can face life's tempests and emerge stronger than ever before.

Life's storms come in various forms, shaking the very foundations of our existence. It is during these tumultuous times that fear often creeps into our hearts, whispering doubts and uncertainties. Yet, in the midst of it all, Jesus calls out to us, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." These powerful words penetrate through the darkness of our fears, offering a glimmer of hope and reminding us we are never alone. Jesus stands before us, a beacon of light, guiding us through turbulent waters.

Much like Peter, however, we too falter when we take our eyes off Jesus. When we allow the storms around us to divert our attention, doubt begins to erode our faith, and we find ourselves sinking into despair. The story of Peter walking on water serves as a poignant reminder of the perils of losing sight of Christ's presence in our lives. Yet, even in our moments of weakness, Jesus extends his hand to rescue us, gently asking, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Jesus's unwavering love and forgiveness remind us that he is always ready to lift us up and restore our faith. And the boat, as a symbol for the Church, carries profound significance because just as the disciples found safety and unity within it, we too can find the same through *our* unwavering faith. We can walk through the storms of life with our heads held high toward the golden light, knowing Christ is always by our side.

Yours in Christ,

Father Rudy