

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time August 13, 2023

1 Kings 19:9a,11-13a; Psalm 85; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:22-33

Today's readings focus on people filled with fear. The common antidote for these encounters with fear is the divine presence. The healing presence of God routs despair and dispels discouragement.

Around the middle of the ninth century B.C., the prophet Elijah incurred the wrath of Queen Jezebel. He fled in fear to Sinai (Horeb) where Elijah experienced God's covenant presence in a special manifestation; not wind or fire but a tiny whispering sound. Elijah was then commissioned to resume his prophetic career by the proclamation of God's Word, a word that will overcome fear.

Paul, in the verses from Romans, anguishes over the fact that Israel did not enter the Christian community. Paul notes Israel's privileges: covenants, lawgiving, worship, and so forth. This culminates in the human origin of the Messiah, and sadly he was not recognized. Ironically, the Gentiles did recognize Jesus and thus enjoy the destiny originally set aside for Israel.

Matthew uses images from Hebrew Scripture: God walks on the waters of chaos (see Job 38:16), rescues humans captured in the flood waters of death (see Psalm 18:16-17), and indicates God's presence and willingness to save (Isaiah 45:18). Peter symbolizes the fearful Christian hovering between faith and doubt; Jesus offers his hand and enters the boat.

God depends on human beings to help realize God's plan for the world. Believers are challenged to radiate God's comforting presence and thus offset the fear that plagues the world.

-- John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L.

VOCATION CORNER AUGUST 13, 2023

The leap of faith we see from Peter in the Gospel invites us to look beyond the stormy seas or the blowing winds keeping us from trusting and following Jesus. A vocation is often filled with obstacles, but at the same time, our persistence through difficulties is what makes us true disciples. "Don't be afraid" is what we often hear in Scripture when a person is called to vocation. This week we celebrate the Assumption of Mary into heaven. Mary, the Mother of Vocations, proclaims her 'fiat' out loud. She gave a definite "YES" to God and carried and raised His Son. We likewise need to proclaim our "fiat" – Thy will be done.



Pastor: Rev Christian Iwuagwu
Phone (618)658-4501
E-mail: spccil@frontier.com
Website: www.stpaulvienna.org



Mission: Live Catholic teachings,
Participate in Sacramental and Liturgical Celebrations, Serve our Community

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

2020 State Rte. 146 E, Vienna, IL – 62995

Sundays – 8:00 am

Parish Council Chair: Becky Bowers

Weekdays – Fri 6:00 pm

Trustees: Steve Pobst, Jared Bergmann



