

12th Sunday OT – Mark 4:35-41

“Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”

I love that statement by the disciples...in the middle of a violent squall that was so bad that even the waves were coming over the sides and **filling up the boat**. I don't know about you, but I would be afraid, even with Jesus asleep in the front of the boat...the highest part of the boat, by the way.

Not surprisingly, the woke Jesus up from his peaceful slumber. “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” Up to this time Jesus had chalked up quite a few miracles: cure of the demoniac, cure of Simon's Mother-in-law, cleansing of a leper, healing of a paralytic, and healing of the man with a withered hand. There are three types of miracles: exorcisms, which is considered a miracle, healing miracles, and miracles of nature. We have seen the first two, and today's readings presents the third, a miracles of nature.

So, the disciples are quite surprised since miracles of nature are at the top of the list. Generally, miracles of healings are usually considered exorcisms, since most diseases are believed to be caused by demons. “They were filled with great awe and said to one another, **“Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?”**”

Why the surprise? Simply because only God can perform miracles of nature. Remember the parting of the red sea by Moses? Moses only held his staff up and the sea parted, but the miracle was attributed to God. “I will sing to the Lord, for he is glorious triumphant: horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.”

Today's medicine can repeat many of the miracles of healing, but not exorcisms or miracles of nature. Off hand I can think of only two miracles of nature that are attributed to God through Mary, the mother of Jesus: the Miracles of the Sun in Lourdes, France, and miracle of her image on the tilma of St. Juan Diego. I am sure there are more, but these two are at the top of list. With modern science, the tilma of St. Juan Diego holds even more surprises.

Unfortunately, we can manipulate nature, but not work miracles, and that is where the problem comes in. Many scientists think we can work miracles of nature, but the generations after us have to clean up the mess, like radioactive wastes.

There is one miracle that we fail to perform, and that is the miracle of love for one another. No matter how hard we try, the planet still suffers from the lack of love for one another. That is why this parish is so important, especially when we reach out to one another in love. You know the litany by now: Saint Francis de Sales Parish, St. Francis de Sales Grade School, HELP Program, Mercy Neighborhood Ministries, Mary Magdalene House, Respite Center. Did I miss anything?

Today's celebration is a celebration of us, the parishioners here at Saint Francis de Sales Parish. That is why it is worth celebrating each year, which I hope continues because of you. Hopefully, our steeple and church is what calls people here, but you, the parishioners, is what keeps them. And that is worth celebrating.