

**Fr. John Sassani**  
**Homily Given on June 25, 2006**  
**Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Liturgical Year B**

I grew up in Swampscott, a small fishing community and bedroom community for Boston, Lynn, Salem, and Peabody. I went to the Catholic grammar school and teamed up with other kids. When I was in the fourth or fifth grade, the father of a friend of mine bought a sailboat and was leaving to sail. He asked if I wanted to go for a sail with them. I said, "Sure!" It was a breezy day, and Joe didn't, in my humble estimation, have this sailing thing down yet. I could swim, but barely, and I thought, "If this goes over, Joe will save Paul. Who will save me?" Sure enough, over we go – and – without missing a beat, I felt this hand grab me. Joe was taking care of both of us. These days I only sail in schooners!

The disciples were in a much worse situation. Sudden storms on the Sea of Galilee are common, making the story more poignant. The professional fishermen among them would have had a great deal of experience, unlike Joe. For them to be afraid means that there was reason to be afraid – to show their fear to one another means there was good reason to be afraid.

And then there is Jesus, sleeping through the storm. They must have thought, "He is a carpenter – His people are carpenters – He doesn't know enough to be afraid." But they had seen him cure the sick, the lepers, and the paralyzed and expel demons. They might have thought, "He can help us...or can He?" But there was no request for help. Instead, they asked, "Do you not care?"

Jesus cared for them. He calmed the sea with His power: "Be still!" He begins by bringing to the chaos the standard of the Kingdom: peace. He had to up the ante for them though. "Do you still not have faith?" Not the aspect of faith that gives assent, acceptance of the truths of God, but fiducial faith: a relationship of trust. "Do you still not trust me?"

He had acted on their behalf – not the sick, crippled, afflicted 'others'. He saved them – us – me. Fear gave way to awe, which is the response to power used on their – my – our behalf. They regarded Him, as Paul says in the second reading, no longer in a human way. Not that they got it, but they were, perhaps, beginning to understand. They were still a long way from trust and faith, but the old order of fear and self-reliance was passing away.

The Eucharist that we are about to receive nourishes us and sustains our faith and trust in Christ. The Eucharist changes us into the Body of Christ. As it does, may we be grateful for the gift of faith, committed to the works of love and sustained by the hope of glory in Christ Jesus, Our Lord.