

FROM THE DESK OF **Fr. Julius**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ; Grace and peace!



of

On this Father's Day, I want to commend all of you Fathers in the St. Joseph faith community, for your dedication, energy, and sacrifices which you model for your families. Likewise, gratitude to our Father in heaven is the best possible gift you can give to your children. Our corresponding dedication this year to St. Joseph, Patron of our families, and spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, brings supernatural graces to the fathers of our parish. Additionally, I honor those spiritual fathers who have been sponsors for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Matrimony. Our liturgy this week reveals the role of God in calming the storms of life both in the history of the Church and in the current lives of all of us Christians.

In the first reading, God addresses Job for the first time, questioning his right to challenge God's authority and leading Job deeper and deeper into the mystery of creation. And in the Second reading, St. Paul who once "rode the storm" of rejection from his former friends and also experienced storms of violent hostility from the Jews who refused to believe that Jesus was the promised Messiah, explains how Jesus died for us to make us a "*new creation*." In order to receive this gift, we are called to respond to his love by living for him in all situations of our lives.

In our Gospel, Mark assures the first-century believers that nothing can harm the Church while the risen Lord is with them. He describes how, by a single commanding word, Jesus stills a storm on the Sea of Galilee, reducing the raging sea to its natural calm, saving his apostles from drowning. The incident guides us, especially in prayer, how necessary it is to be *prepared* for those storms of life that try to catch us off guard; that we can be praying even in advance for His grace towards the next tumultuous event that comes our way.

Therefore, we Christians need to accommodate Jesus in the boat of our life. I don't know how it is with you, but in the past, life experiences have handed me different types of violent storms; physical, emotional and spiritual storms. However, with Jesus I weathered these storms. How radical to think that we only need to cry out to Jesus who can still these storms! When we are absorbed in grieving over loss, Jesus assures us of the glory of the *life to come*. He calms us when we lose dear ones. He consoles us when the storms of doubt seek to uproot the very foundations of our faith; Jesus is present to still that storm. By deep faith, even the storms He allows are gifts to lessen our fears. What storm do you have going on this week that requires inviting Jesus into your boat?

Happy Fathers' Day and a Joyous Sunday!