Homily – 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A
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Let's look at this story about Jesus and his disciples.

The disciples had just come from this experience of helping Jesus feed a large crowd with a bit of bread and fish. Not only was there enough, but some left over.

Now disciples and Jesus are separated.
Jesus is praying on a mountain
They're in a boat in the middle of a big storm.

Sound familiar? Like anything you know?
Like the way life goes so often?
You go from one experience where things couldn't be much better. Suddenly you're in the midst of what at least feels like chaos.
Where's God, the Savior, the miracle worker?
Up there on the Mountain, doing godly things.

Then, to our astonishment, Jesus comes walking on the water. Jesus (God) is no longer removed from it all, but right there.

“Through the sea was your way. Your path, through the mighty waters …”
(Psalm 77)
and “God alone … treads upon the back of the sea.” (Job 9)

It's gotta be a ghost. This can't be real!

Bold Peter ventures out of the boat
He's begun to understand a bit of how God works.

But then that understanding is met by the reality of those headwinds. His faith/trust,
which is deeper than understanding falters.
He sinks like a stone.

Suddenly, Peter is back to shouting with his psalm-singing ancestors, “Lord save me!”
Lord, I'm drowning. Save me!
Jesus reaches out, takes him by the hand.
You of little FAITH, why did you doubt?

That was a moment of blinding faith.
Peter understands momentarily, that discipleship means walking like the Master,
no matter how impossible it seems.

Jesus hasn’t come to dazzle them,
but to teach them that trusting in God
would carry them where they never dreamed they could go.

Matthew paints a portrait of the disciples,
such like community members for whom his Gospel is intended.
They have a fine understanding
of Jesus and his teaching.
What they need is to trust in the risen Lord sufficiently
to put that understanding fully into action.

Still, small voice

Francis de Sales
To find peace in the midst of life storms
1. *Intend* to do whatever I am doing for the glory of God.
2. Do the (relatively) little I can to address the situation.
3. Put the rest in the hands of God.

We aren’t being asked to walk on water.
We are being asked to act like we believe
that God’s love for us and in us
is more powerful than chaos, evil and apathy.

The Gospel challenges us to take on the storms of our day
with a love and hope that will risk going overboard.
The headwinds are fierce, but the force of God’s Spirit is even greater.