



November 16, 2025

God Will Challenge Us

1.) Disagreements and challenges in the Church have always been part of its history. The revealed truth is given, but takes time to be fully understood and applied. The Church's understanding of her faith develops and deepens over time. As this development takes place, our understanding will be challenged. By being challenged, we are invited into a deeper understanding of ourselves and God.

2.) Sometimes the challenges can be overwhelming and confusing. At times, we can be tempted to retreat behind our understanding. There may be a temptation to simplify it or think that religious explanations are only for the experts or that they complicate it.

Read Matthew 14:22-32. It's the story of Our Lord walking on the water. The boat the Apostles are in is caught in a storm. The boat is being tossed by the winds and taking on water. Peter wants to be faithful, but he has doubts. He says, "Lord, if it is you, call me out on the water." Notice that as soon as Peter steps out of the boat onto the water, he becomes terrified and sinks beneath the waves. Our Lord catches Peter and pulls him up.

3.) At times like Peter, we come face to face with the challenging reality of what faith means. Like Peter, we want to believe, but are afraid or have doubts. Jesus did not ask Peter to calm the winds or confront the storm; the Lord will do that. Our Divine Lord knows our limits and is fully aware of our dependence on Him. The boat can represent our comfort zone. In the boat, we can be protected by our thoughts and ideas. The boat can also represent our pride or fear.

4.) When Jesus called Peter out onto the water, it was an invitation to come and meet Him. Our Divine Lord is inviting us out to a deeper, more vibrant faith. Like the Gospel story, we are not going to battle the winds and waves by ourselves. Our focus needs to be on His presence, to go and meet Him.

5.) The storm can show itself through teachings that are difficult to understand or accept. Sometimes new developments or scandals can "rock our boat." In this situation, imitate the Apostle Peter, call out to Christ, then get out of the boat and meet Him. Getting out of the boat may be picking up your Bible and reading it. Perhaps you may venture out into the Catechism, a Church document, or a YouTube video. Sign up for an online class or seminar.

Focus on Our Lord and let Him deal with the storm. Let Him call you out of the boat and meet Him. Next Sunday's bulletin will have some encouraging and practical ideas to assist us in "going out onto the water."

Next week's bulletin.....

Our Human Nature is weak..... God Knows That
Christianity is Divine Truths and That Matters.
It was Never that Simple and Easy..... God Knows That Too!

Love the Lord Jesus, let Him love you, and go in peace.

In Christ Our Lord,
Timothy Andries
Catechist
St Joseph and Rose of Lima Parishes