

## **19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A** (Week August 9/10, 2026)

1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a

Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:22-33

I welcome you all, my dear brothers and sisters, to this Eucharistic Celebration.

Today we are celebrating the Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A.

The focus of the Liturgy of the Word today, especially in our Gospel text of Matthew 14:22-33, is about the theological virtue of FAITH.

And so our theme of reflection for today is: "**LORD, SAVE ME.**"

This theme is drawn from what happened in the Gospel. Jesus was seen walking on water while the disciples were in the boat. Of course, upon seeing Him walking on the water, they were afraid. Then Peter stepped out to walk towards Him. But because his faith was little, he began to sink and drown in the water. And he shouted, "LORD, SAVE ME!"

### **MY TRUE STORY**

Back in 2015, as a seminarian, I did my pastoral work experience in a parish called Sts. Peter and Paul, Katwe Parish, along the shores of Lake Edward. Every morning I would go to the lake to collect fish for the rectory. I would arrive early and wait for the fishermen.

One time, one of the fishermen told me that one night there was a heavy storm on the lake. He was alone in a small boat. The wind was very strong. He held on to his small boat until it was about to capsize. He had to make a decision: either die holding the boat, or let go of the boat and try to swim and shout for help.

He let go, swam, and shouted until another fisherman heard him and saved him.  
My dear friends, the world we are living in is like that big lake.

### **OUR SITUATIONS ARE LIKE THE BOAT**

Many times, our situations may look comfortable. Like the eleven disciples who remained in the boat – they were more comfortable. They were safe. But they never walked on water. Sometimes our life looks comfortable, but it lacks Jesus Christ.  
And so today the Gospel invites us:

#### **1. WE NEED TO STEP OUT WITH COURAGE – LIKE PETER**

We need to step out of that situation that looks comfortable but lacks Jesus Christ. I may not describe all kinds of situations we are in... but inside our hearts, we all know better our own situations that lack Jesus Christ.

What is that comfortable boat we are holding?  
Maybe it is anger we don't want to forgive.  
Maybe it is gossip.  
Maybe it is a procrastination.

That boat looks comfortable, but it is sinking.

## **2. BE LIKE PETER AND WALK TOWARDS JESUS**

When you face a challenge, just call upon Him to save you, and He will hold your hand and save you. Just ask Jesus Christ to walk with you!  
Do not die with problems. Be like Peter, when he cried "LORD, SAVE ME," immediately Jesus stretched out His hand.  
Your prayer does not need to be too long. It needs to be honest. When you are overwhelmed, just say: "Lord, save me. Lord, save my family. Lord, save our parish."

## **MY FIRST FOCUS AS YOUR NEW PASTOR**

My dear friends, as your new pastor, my first focus is to look at our LITURGY – to make a Liturgical Committee, so that we may all worship God with joy and with great reverence, and all of us participating actively.  
Faith that stays in the boat never grows. Faith grows when we step out and serve.  
So I invite you: Come out and say, "Father, I want to serve."

Come to my office or send an email to my administrative assistant and say:

- I know how to sing – I will join the choir.
- I can be an usher and welcome God's people.
- I can be a lector and start proclaiming the Word of God.
- I can be a sacristan.
- I can be an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

I am ready to put you on the committee.

My goal is that, your children may keep the continuity of your good works in the Church and for the Parish to continue growing in Faith.

And when things become a bit hard, as they always do, we shall all cry to Jesus Christ together, by saying "LORD, SAVE US," and He will save us.

## **CONCLUSION**

Let us step out of our comfortable boats today. Let us walk towards Jesus.

May Mother Mary, our Mother, and St. Bavo, our patron saint, pray for us.