

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 06/20/21

There are storms, some bigger than others, in every country throughout the whole world in every generation.

No one can escape the vicissitudes of life. The troubles we encounter are by and large universal and are allowed to happen by God for our good.

Ultimately, everything that happens, good or bad, is meant to aid us along the path of holiness so that we can go directly to heaven when we depart this world.

Jesus is calling us to be saints and He gives us everything necessary to accomplish this goal.

First and foremost, He makes the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Confession and Holy Communion universally available to everyone if they so choose so that everyone can be equipped to meet the challenges that will definitely come our way.

Baptism and Confirmation are received only once but the other two Sacraments – Confession and Holy Communion – are meant to be used often so that we can constantly revivify and even increase grace in our lives.

There are certainly personal storms brewing in the lives individuals right now – even life or death ones – that are terrifying.

I don't want to minimize that but even as a country and a world one can easily argue that we are in the midst of a storm that is intent on casting all things Christian out of society and that's even more terrifying albeit in a very different way but it is life or death.

Pope Saint John Paul II called the storm a culture of death and it has escalated beyond anyone's imagination in recent years.

Whether one wants to refer to as "the Culture of Death," "the Great Reset," "Building Back Better" or whatever, as Christians we are in the midst of a great storm and we need to be equipped for what is to come.

In the gospel the apostles were in the midst of a storm of their own and Jesus was asleep on a cushion in the stern of the boat so they woke Him.

Waking Him was not the problem. That was actually a very good idea. Things weren't going very well and if

anyone could fix it than they should have known that it would be Jesus.

The problem was what they said to him. “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”

And then what happened? “He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Quiet! Be still!’ The wind ceased and there was great calm. Then he asked them, ‘Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?’”

It’s okay to be terrified when everything is spinning out of control – that’s natural – and it is vital that we call upon the Lord but we must do so in faith.

Of course Jesus cares and He knows everything that is happening – good or bad – and yet He allows it for our good to help us grow in holiness so that one day we can be saints with him in Heaven for all eternity.

Ultimately, that’s the only thing that matters.

So let’s regularly avail ourselves of the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion and constantly be calling upon Jesus in faith so that no matter what storm may arise we will be equipped to meet the challenge.