



**ARCHDIOCESE OF PALO – CATECHETICAL MINISTRY**  
**Module 42 – Mark 4:35-41 Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle B**  
**Theme: Do not be Afraid! (June 20, 2021)**



**JESUS CALMS THE STORM**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Talking about Covid 19 pandemic**

As of June 14, 2021, there are about 175, 686 814 Confirmed cases and 3 803 592 confirmed deaths of Corona virus pandemic worldwide. In the Philippines, we have 1,276,0041 (out of 108.1 million total population) confirmed cases, 21,969 confirmed deaths, as of 7 June. And we know that vaccinations are being administered these days all over the country.

**Activity**

Get a symbol or think of an object that best describes yourselves on how you are affected and how you feel at this time of Coronavirus disease. What would it be and why. (for example: *I see myself as a dry land because I have used all my energy waiting for Covid 19 to end. Like a dry soil, I cannot make anything I used to do like ...*)

(Family sharing or big group sharing)



**OPENING PRAYER**

**Pope Francis' Prayer for Protection during the Coronavirus Pandemic**

- \*O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.
- \*We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.
- \*You know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.
- \*Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:
- \*He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.



**PHASE ONE**  
**REMEMBER THE STORY OF JESUS**

**Proclamation of the Gospel Story- Mark 4:35-41**  
*Enthroned the Bible on a table with lighted candle)*

**A moment of prayerful silence**

*We will not be able to understand the Word of God unless God himself opens our hearts. Let us now welcome Jesus as he speaks to us through his Word*

**Jesus Stills a Storm**

35 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." 36 And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. 37 A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. 38 But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" 39 He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. 40 He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" 41 And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

*Reader: The Gospel of the Lord*

*All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

**Brief Guided silent Meditation / Personal Prayer**

What do you like most in this story? Why?  
 In what situation do Jesus and his disciples find themselves?  
 What is their reaction?

**Text in Context**

Today's Gospel story is a continuation of last Sunday's reading on Kingdom of God that is compared to a mustard seed. The kingdom of God grows slowly like a tiny seed to a full-grown tree, ready to shelter or care for everyone who comes. The process takes time and waiting and this takes faith. For a better understanding, it is important to consider Mark who wrote his Gospel in the 70 A.D. ( **Anno Domini** or in the year of the Lord), about 40 years after the death of Jesus. This period was marked with intense persecution. Mark encouraged the new believers to stand hatred and hardships in their

desperate situation for the sake of Christ. They were like in the boat being tossed by the strong storm, as we see in the Gospel reading today

1. What were the disciples worried about in today's Gospel? (the storm)
2. Describe how the storm looks like in the sea as the disciples experienced?
3. Was Jesus worried about the storm?
4. What was Jesus doing? (*Jesus was sleeping.*)
5. Why wasn't Jesus worried about the storm?
6. What do you think Jesus meant when he said to the disciples: *Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?*"

PHASE II REFLECT the Story  
of the Church  
(Teachings of the Church)



This Gospel story happened in the evening. It begins this way: ***when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side***

We know how night with its darkness looks like. Darkness points out something that is fearful even not pleasant to one's eyes.

It has been more than a year that we, as one world, experience darkness. We know that Covid-19 pandemic has made life for us miserable and hard due to many limits and restrictions and protocols to observe. All are affected as individuals, families, communities and as one world. It has destroyed human life, has disrupted activities like school and work, travel and other important things in life. It looks as if the world has stopped for a while in its natural course of movement.

Like the disciples in the story, we find ourselves afraid and helpless. In the first half of the pandemic, we find ourselves in rough seas, tossed by strong wind, even now. The virus seems uncontrollable and has infected our homes and communities. We are all caught up in the storms, not ready to face it. We found ourselves helpless and lost.

We are like the disciples in the Gospel story today, panicking and crying out to Jesus:

*Lord, are you sleeping? Don't you see us sinking and drowning?*

*Do something to save us! We are perishing!*

***Jesus woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm.***

The disciples were in awe and ask themselves:  
*Who is this man whom nature even obeys?*

At this point the disciples did not know yet who Jesus was. They knew him as a teacher, as a master, as a friend, as someone full of wisdom. Jesus' true identity is not yet fully known to them.

The disciples are yet to discover who Jesus as God. God is the force behind all the great mystery of nature and creation. God is in control of creation. All is subject to his divine power and might.

No wonder why the disciples could not understand why Jesus was sound asleep and seemed not bothered by their panicking over the storm.

***Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"***

After Jesus had calmed the wind and the waters, he reproached the disciples' lack of faith in him.

Like the disciples, we complain to God, when the smooth sailing of our boats seems to be interrupted by storms in life like this coronavirus pandemic.

How do you react to hardship and problems in your life - big or small?

Do you face them, with the calm and hope that Jesus wants you to have? If Jesus seems to be asleep, would you allow him to remain asleep or what would you tell him?

### **Here comes the question of faith.**

Faith is not only asking for smooth journey in life but being able to say:

*The journey is rough but I believe Jesus is with me.*

*I am not alone*

Faith enables us to continue the journey without being terrified no matter how difficult life may look like. (Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle)

### **How does faith in Jesus makes a difference in one's life?**

Jesus Christ is truly human who once lived among us on earth. He is one with us in our human miseries because he has allowed himself to experience suffering. Yet, Jesus Christ is also truly divine. He is the Son of God who has power over creation. He possesses divine power over the forces of nature and the test of human life. Christ is at work in creation. He has the full power over nature and events in human life. No matter what is happening around us like the pandemic, God is in control of human destiny, all creatures and events around. In all this, faith enables us to see a deeper meaning in everything because we see Christ active and alive among us. Even if we do not understand, God is telling us:

*I am here. The world is in my hands. I AM behind all that is happening.*

### **PHASE THREE RESPOND – with/ in my personal faith /community faith story**

Can you name some lessons of pandemic? Try to see how you live as a family or community during this difficult time.

What do you say or feel as you expose yourself to what is happening now?

What can you do to strengthen your faith in Christ and others' faith, looking at your own particular situation now?



### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts.

You ask us not to be afraid.

Yet our faith is weak and we are fearful.

But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm.

Tell us again: "Do not be afraid"

And we, together with Peter, "cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us". Amen. (Pope Francis)

### **BACKGROUND FOR THE CATECHISTS**

**CCC 314** We firmly believe that God is master of the world and of its history. But the ways of his providence are often unknown to us. Only at the end, when our partial knowledge ceases, when we see God "face to face",<sup>184</sup> will we fully know the ways by which - even through the dramas of evil and sin - God has guided his creation to that definitive sabbath rest<sup>185</sup> for which he created heaven and earth.).

**CCC 324** The fact that God permits physical and even moral evil is a mystery that God illuminates by his Son Jesus Christ who died and rose to vanquish evil. Faith gives us the certainty that God would not permit an evil if he did not cause a good to come from that very evil, by ways that we shall fully know only in eternal life.

