

## Trusting God to Quell the Turmoil of Our Lives.

Last year we experienced one of the worst storms in the history of the United States. Hurricane Katrina destroyed much of the Gulf Coast of Louisiana and Mississippi. Its devastation was compounded by the breaking of the levees in New Orleans and the new heights of bureaucratic incompetency in every area of the government. As a result, people are still living in tents, six months after the storm.

In today's Gospel we see the power of the wind and the sea upon a fragile boat. In the boat are the terrified disciples and the sleeping Jesus. To the early Christians the boat was a symbol of the Church, assaulted by the diabolical powers of materialism and paganism, tossed about by a multitude of attackers, seemingly so fragile it will fall apart at any moment. But the ship of the Church is not without its own power, for in it is Christ. He protects the boat from assault. He protects the Church. He protects us.

There is so much turmoil in our lives. We all experience it. Just when we think things have quieted down, more turmoil erupts. You and I wonder, how much more can I really take? Well, we can't take much more, but the thing is, we are not alone. The Lord is with us. He can and will protect us.

We have to be aware of His Presence in our lives. We have to waken ourselves up to his consuming desire to care for us. For really, he is not asleep. We are the ones who are dozing off, not recognizing his power in our lives. After all, as St. Paul says, we are Christians, a new creation who carry about in ourselves the very power of God. We have to trust in him to quell the turmoil. He loves us. No matter what our present fears are, no matter what suffering we endure now, no matter what crisis we fear for the future, he is there to keep us from falling apart. He is there for us. There is nothing beyond his power.

Living in the world is a struggle for the sincere Christian. Raising Christian children in a materialistic society is a strain to our patience. Often we are sure we are coming apart. That's because we are coming apart. The ship is fragile. The wind is strong. But Jesus is on the boat protecting us.

Today we pray for the faith to trust him to quell the turmoil of our lives.