

## **Recognizing the Presence of God in the Storms of Our Life**

The readings of today invite us to reflect on how we recognize the presence of God in the storms of our lives. The first reading is from the book of Job. The name Job is a name many has taken to be synonymous with sufferings and adversities. In the book of Job, we usually see only the disappointments Job faced in his life and forget the blessings he had before and after his sufferings (See chapters 1 and 42). In the passage today, God spoke to Job and promised him “here shall your proud waves be stilled.” Something very striking about Job is that in all his disappointments and sufferings (financial loss, bereavement, sickness, & rejection) he trusted in God and always recognized the presence of God in his life. Thus, he said, “I know that my redeemer lives” (Job 19:25). What sustained Job was that he trusted in God’s love and presence in his life, which St. Paul invites us to experience in the second reading.

It is the same assurance of God’s presence that made the disciples to ask for help from Jesus when they experienced the storms as we read in the gospel of Mark. They were sure that Jesus will not abandon them to perish. Thus, we are invited to reflect on different storms of our lives and ask ourselves how we recognize the presence of God in them. The journey of life as we know is not a bed of roses. It is larger than logic. The more questions we ask about life the more questions that come up to us. Every day brings new challenges that make us feel anxious and worried. We cannot run away from them, but the way we manage them makes a great difference. Our faith comes in when we recognize the presence of God in these storms and adversities of life. The truth about life does not give us always what we desire or deserve. The important thing is to ask ourselves always if we are doing our best in life situations. Once, we make a sincere effort to do our best, we leave the rest to God.

Today the Father’s Day, we thank God for the gifts of all the fathers-grandfather, living and dead. Fathers together with the mothers carry and shoulder the burden of families, and God through them has blessed and cared for us. The life of St. Joseph, the foster-father of our Lord Jesus Christ remains an outstanding example for the fathers. Joseph with every patient and perseverance took care of the child Jesus and the mother Mary. Likewise, God is calling the fathers to take care of their wives, kids, and grandkids. We pray that God will give all of you the persevering spirit not to give up, especially when it looks like your efforts are not duly appreciated. Fathers do everything within your power to make your wives and kids have confidence in you; so that they can count on you being there for them always. This trust is very important and that is why you have to pray that God will give you the gifts to make it work. We encourage the wives and kids to appreciate the good the fathers do and also to be patient with them, especially when they do not live up to our expectations of them. May the good Lord bless and strengthen all of us, especially all the fathers. Amen.