On that day, as evening drew on, Jesus said to his disciples: “Let us cross to the other side.” Leaving the crowd, they took Jesus with them in the boat just as he was. And other boats were with him. A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat, so that it was already filling up. Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion. They woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” 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?” They were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?”

**Brief commentary:**

The story of the storm sets the stage for the display of Jesus’ power in front of his disciples and the people occupying other boats who at least were interested in the person of Jesus. The narrative is typical of Mark who often emphasizes the inability of the disciples to understand Jesus’ messianic identity. The event presents a challenge to all believers that extends to our times: What do we choose in moments of tragedy and danger: trust or fear? According to Mark, the disciples had shared in the secrets of the kingdom and had been with Jesus when he healed the sick and cast out demons. Yet, in the crisis they doubt and get angry because Jesus has fallen asleep and is not paying attention to them. After quieting the storm, Jesus asked them: Why this fear? Where is your faith? He was not asking for “awe” at the miracle. He wanted real faith in him which included trust in the final victory after his passion and death. There is no record of any verbal response of the disciples. Instead, Mark tells of their awe, a common reaction to the witnessing of divine power. These men had given up everything to follow Jesus, but their questions showed their anxiety about their lack of knowledge of the one they followed. In a sense we are all “in the same boat.”

**Today’s reading offers three significant messages:**

- This event was seen as a sign of Jesus’ saving presence amid the persecution that threatened the early Christian community.
- Faith needs to be nurtured. As disciples of Jesus we are called to discover more of whom this person is and whom we have decided to follow.
- In the midst of the storm, Jesus rests in trust while the disciples panic in fear.

**For our shared or personal reflection:**

*After a brief pause for silent reflection share your answers, ideas or feelings.*

1. In today’s world, so full of fears and uncertainty, what is my choice: growing faith and trust or paralyzing fear?

2. Have I ever being in a “storm” where Jesus seemed not to care and I was overcome by fear? What happened?

**Suggested readings:** Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraphs 858; 1505-1506; 2232-2233.