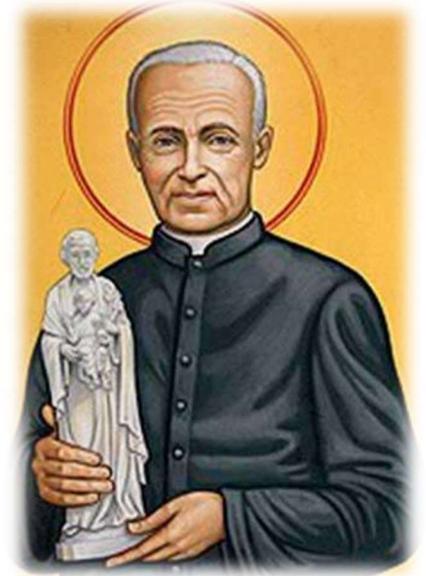


St. Philip the Apostle
Roman Catholic Church

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

-- St. André Bessette, Religious

-- Fr. Sherdel's Morning Mass Intention: ***Lilly Reichart***



First Reading: 1 John 4:11-18

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us.

This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us, that he has given us of his Spirit. Moreover, we have seen and testify that the Father sent his Son as savior of the world. Whoever acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God. We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us.

God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him. In this is love brought to perfection among us, that we have confidence on the day of judgment because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment, and so one who fears is not yet perfect in love.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 72:1-2, 10, 12-13

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, with your judgment endow the king,
and with your justice, the king's son;
He shall govern your people with justice
and your afflicted ones with judgment. ***R/.***

The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts;
the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute. ***R/.***

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out,
and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.
He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;
the lives of the poor he shall save. ***R/.***

Gospel: Mark 6:45-52

After the five thousand had eaten and were satisfied, Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and precede him to the other side toward Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. And when he had taken leave of them, he went off to the mountain to pray. When it was evening, the boat was far out on the sea and he was alone on shore. Then he saw that they were tossed about while rowing, for the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them. But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and cried out. They had all seen him and were terrified. But at once he spoke with them, "Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid!" He got into the boat with them and the wind died down. They were completely astounded. They had not understood the incident of the loaves. On the contrary, their hearts were hardened.

Reflection

He got into the boat with them. (Mark 6:51)

Why does Mark say that the disciples "had not understood the incident of the loaves" (6:52)? They were with him when he multiplied the bread and the fishes. They even had a hand in the miracle! Apparently it was because they hadn't yet realized the significance of this event. Jesus could do things like this because he was the Son of God and because he wanted to feed and care for his flock.

Still, despite their lack of understanding, Jesus didn't give up on them. He made that clear when he walked across the stormy sea, "got into the boat with them," and saved them from drowning (Mark 6:51). That second miracle must have illuminated their minds and helped them to comprehend better Jesus' divine power and intentions.

Sometimes we are like those disciples: we don't understand what God is doing or why. Maybe we don't notice him working in a situation, and we start to doubt whether we can count on him. Or perhaps we don't realize how much we need him when we're in a storm. But Jesus knows our limitations. Instead of getting annoyed with us and distancing himself, he gets into our boat — not only into the specific situation but into our feelings and thoughts as well.

What might it look like when God gets into your boat? Maybe you're feeling overwhelmed one morning at the thought of all you have to accomplish that day. But then you come to prayer, and you experience a deep sense of peace. Or perhaps you can't understand why one of your children seems to resent you. But then God helps you understand why your child is feeling that way, and you realize your need to reconcile. Or you and your spouse might be disagreeing about an important issue, but then Jesus opens your heart to see things from his or her point of view.

Jesus wants to get into your boat. He wants to encourage you and support you when you're struggling to understand. He wants to come alongside you, just as he did his first disciples. So today, invite him in, and be open to how he might want to reveal himself to you.

Jesus, thank you for getting into my boat with me. Come more deeply into my heart and life today.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament
I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.
Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou,
O Prince of the heavenly hosts,
by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.