



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Gospel this weekend is a testimony, not only to the power of God, but also of how God can work in our lives. Not only does Jesus walk on the water through the storm, but, at His command, Peter is able to walk on the water, too. To believe that God can do impossible things: that's part of being Catholic. To believe that God can do impossible things *through me...* that's a whole other ballgame!

Here's the great mystery – God doesn't just want us to be spectators in our redemption; He gives us an active role. This is God's great generosity – that He allows us to take part. In Baptism, God transformed us, making each of us a Temple of the Holy Spirit. God's very life and love abides in us. We hear throughout the New Testament of the mighty deeds done by those who followed Christ. Ill people are healed, prisoners released from prison, the lame walk, the dead are raised, and the Gospel is preached to those who have ears to hear!

And that same Holy Spirit is still active in each of us. He wants us to take part!

Why do we not see these signs and wonders today? There are many theories about this. Some say that the miracle stories were all fairy tales. Others say that those were signs only for the first age of the Church, but once the Apostles died, there were no more signs and wonders. Others say that those things can only be done by the saints. The argument against all of these is just to look at the history of the Church – miracles have been done throughout the history of the Church (and even *today!*), and some of them have been recorded with such accuracy and scientific acumen that there is little doubt that they are indeed miraculous. Many of these miracles were done by saints, it is true, but many are done by ordinary Christians who have a deep faith in God's loving power in our midst. St. Francis Xavier was called upon by many people to bring them healing, but there weren't enough hours in the day! So, he trained the children to go and pray with faith, and through their little faith, many people were healed.

And this brings us to the crux of the matter: do we have that faith that God is working in us and through us? Of course, we can't control God, we can't force a miracle. Yet, when we act in trusting faith, God comes through; sometimes in miraculous ways. We too often have an "I'm not worthy" attitude. On one level, of course we're not worthy – no one is. On the other hand, it's not about our worthiness, but about God's fidelity to us. When Jesus called Peter, Peter's reaction was "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man" (Luke 5:8) – yet Jesus called him, Jesus used him. Peter would go on to walk on water... and sink. He would deny Jesus three times, and then profess his love for Him three times. He would put his foot in his mouth more times than can be counted, and then would become the Pope.

Our unworthiness is not an excuse for God not using us... it is an invitation *to trust in Him*. In our brokenness, in our woundedness, in our sinfulness, in our littleness, God's greatness will shine through **that much more boldly!** What made Peter different was not he was worthier than the other disciples, but that he stepped out of the boat, trusting in Jesus.

Will I do that? Will you?