

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

My beloved brothers and sisters, do we really believe Jesus? Do we really trust Him? Remember, our behavior tells us the truth about what is really going on! Jesus tells us today: "The Kingdom of God has arrived!" Do we really believe this? Often we act as if Jesus' Kingdom is a pipe dream; or, we behave as if the coming of the Kingdom of God depends upon us- it doesn't, it depends upon God, and He has already acted decisively in human history. It is not yet fully present, and will not be until Jesus comes again in Glory, but nonetheless, Jesus has opened the door to His Divine Kingdom- let us begin to act like it! Jesus rules it, not us! I am not responsible for it, God is! Let us believe Him and act like it.

Immediately after Jesus tells us that the Kingdom has arrived, He challenges us: "Repent and believe the Good News..." In the original Greek of the Gospel, He says: "Metanoite, pistuete ho evangeliou ho Theous!" The word: metanoite, means: change your minds and your hearts! That is the necessary quality of repentance. We do not change our behaviors unless we change our ideas and beliefs! To believe in the gospel means to trust that God's way, even though it may be storming terribly on the Sea, is the best way, because God knows how to steer the boat- we don't! Is this a terribly stormy time in which we are now living in the world, our nation and the Church? Yes it is, so take Dramamine and hold on for dear life, because the ride is going to be rough- but you are not going to calm the sea- He alone can do that! Is everything going to hell in a hand basket- of course it is- it has been since Adam and Eve, only Safe Place? Stay in His boat and trust Him, even though it seems He is asleep in the stern of the boat- (He knows how to do this, He only asks for your prayers, your trust, your hope, and a holy life, and even that, you cannot do without Him! Stop being busy bodies, and stay busy doing what our Lady at Fatima asked of us- that is what will bring change!

Stop all of the pot-stirring and anxieties, stop pushing the horse to make it move- you're going to get kicked, and get someone else run-over! Stop being worry-worts, instead, Change your hearts and your minds and begin to believe: Jesus is in charge, believe in the power of His love, His Wisdom, His power. Live your lives

in accordance with hope and trust; recognize our limitations, and our responses are often driven by fear; Jesus calls for humility, patience, gentleness and lives of constant prayer and gratitude! Our worries reveal our attachments to our own will and ideas, we are called to a spiritual detachment; worry is an obstacle to holiness and a distraction to prayer- it has never done anything useful; instead, take your worries about the Church, about the Liturgy, about the world, about the society, about anything, to prayer, in trust and in hope. Ask Jesus to show you where more detachment and trust are needed- you are not going to solve these problems; be holy as God is Holy, let God worry about the rest! You will be much more peaceful, and you will be the kind of joyful people that God needs in the world today!