

July 1, 2008
Tuesday of the Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

Amos 3:1-8; 4:11-12

Psalms 5:4b-6a, 6b-7, 8

Matthew 8:23-27

"Lord, save us! We are perishing!"

For some odd reason, I find myself thing about the story of Chicken Little. Chicken Little panicked when an acorn fell on her head. She immediately surmised that the sky was falling. As she ran off to tell the King, she encountered her friends who joined her in her effort to alert the King of their fate. During the process, they tell the fox who offers to help as he lures them to his den with the intention of having them for dinner. However, as they were about to enter his den, the king's dogs come toward them barking loudly enough to scare the fox away. From that day forward, Chicken Little carried an umbrella with her whenever she walked through the woods. It was a present from the king and if, perhaps, an acorn should fall, it never bothered her at all.

There are many different versions of the ending of this tale, but I like this one the best. How easily we panic at the first sign of trouble and run to our king for help. We journey through life on our own until life delivers a potentially dangerous blow, then we see help. The metaphor of the umbrella is what speaks to me in this story as I read today's gospel. IF I carried the gift of our Gracious God with me as I journey though life, would I then be unafraid like Chicken Little—assured that I will be protected from all harm?

God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.

~St. Augustine

What do I carry with me to remind me of God's love and protection?