

August 10, 2008  
Sunday of the Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time

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

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

1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a

Psalms 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:22-33

*"O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"*

I ask myself this question frequently. Every time I am faced with a real struggle, my first reaction is to wonder how I will manage all that it requires of me. The reaction and the accompanying anxiety have lessened in intensity, but I am not unlike Peter who panicked and looked down and therefore fell. However, my response is to doubt I can do it from the get go and hang onto the boat for dear life, needing to be coaxed to even put a toe in the water. While the way I do it is different than Peter, the doubt is still the same. I have learned to stop fretting that I am not eliminating this tendency from my way of life. Instead, knowing that God loves me just as I am, and relying on the grace of God, I simply move through the experience trying to be patient with myself. I find that the less I fight how I do it, the less how I do it controls me. And, instead of observing how I am with anguish, I can observe how I am with amusement, trusting I will get out of the boat and move on down the path to which I am called, no matter how much I protest, doubt, whine, or hesitate.

*Trust the past to God's mercy, the present to God's love and the future to God's providence. ~St. Augustine*