

All in the same boat

This week's Gospel is a perfect example of the process of the faith journey, and it outlines for us the three stages of one's faith journey. Matthew's story actually begins at the end of another story - the miracle of the loaves and fishes. Jesus has compassion for the crowds and feeds them with a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish. Immediately after that, he packs up the apostles in a boat, sends them off to the opposite shore of the lake and He goes off alone to pray.

The Gospel reminds us very pointedly that we cannot exist on our own, without sustenance from He who is our Source of Life and Love. It is a lesson that we all need to remember when the weather worsens, when the winds whip up, when we seem to sense a ghostly presence that makes us afraid, and when we cry out from the depths, hoping that God will answer. And it also drives home the fact that we cannot exist without the support and love of one another.

(from *food for thought*, Bulletin 13 Aug 2023; Gospel: Jn [Mt. 14:22-23](#))

