

**Confidence and Hope**    Third Week in Ordinary Time    Saturday, January 27, 2018    8:15 AM    2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17;    **Mk 4:35-41**    (St. Angela Merici, virgin; BVM)    (We do have to suffer, but we don't have to suffer needlessly.)

**“Then he asked them, ‘Why are you terrified?’”**

There are many examples in the life of **Jesus** in which he **takes authority over everything**: diseases, handicaps, demonized persons, and here the wind itself, so nature in all of its aspects.

But the point that Mark brings up is his question: “Why are you terrified?” not even why were you terrified, but why are you terrified? So **all of Jesus’ signs or works were meant to instill confidence and hope**—confidence and hope—**in the ultimate well-being of everything**. Jesus’ whole mission was to point the way toward the resolution of every issue, of every problem, to show that **there was no situation in which there is not a superseding power**. Not that that superseding power is always at our disposal, that’s not the point. The point is it exists. **We are in a period of trial, but we can see the outcome and, therefore, during the trial we should not be terrified.**

That doesn’t mean we will not suffer. **Jesus himself suffered fully. He experienced agony, but not terror**—there’s a difference. **In the midst of all our trials** we need to have confidence and hope that we will get through them, that **God is with us during them**, and that there is an ultimate resolution of all problems in God, that life itself is aiming toward God, and that this is something we have to bear within ourselves as a conscious companion. If we abandon this companion, then we will suffer needlessly. **We do have to suffer, but we don’t have to suffer needlessly.**