

April 5, 2008
Saturday of the Second Week of Easter

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

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

Acts 6:1-7

Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

John 6:16-21

When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they began to be afraid. But he said to them, "It is I. Do not be afraid."

I can imagine what the disciples were feeling as Jesus appeared to them that night for fear has been an unwelcome visitor in my life for far too many years. I wonder what their response was to the appearance of Jesus. It is written that, "*They wanted to take him into the boat, but the boat immediately arrived at the shore to which they were heading.*" This reminds me of children who sleep with a blanket or a favorite stuffed animal at night. It gives them comfort and provides a certain amount of security. That is my take on the response of the disciples. But Jesus had a different plan. His presence would not be so visible, so tactile as a blanket or a favorite stuffed animal. They had to walk the walk in faith, seemingly alone but never really alone at all. That is what the words, "Do not be afraid." Say to me today: "I am always with you." It is interesting to me that this is the very line that ends the gospel of Matthew.

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

Matt 28:19-20