

Homily for the 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time

We live pretty routine lives...do the same things over and over again...getting up, getting ready, work, take the kids to their never-ending activities, pick up cleaning, go to a baseball game...and then crash, go to bed and start the cycle all over again. Week after week, month after month, we settle into the ritual of day-to-day living. It's how we survive. It's how we journey through life.

But every once in a while there are days that none of us welcome. These are the days we awaken to learn of a good friend's sudden passing, the news of a neighbor's loss of work or the awareness that health has suddenly taken a turn or a child has lost her way. These are the days that visit us with brutal terror. These are the days that frighten us.

Such were two days, separated by some 700 years that showed up in the lives of people we meet in the readings today from Kings and Luke. In both accounts Elijah and Jesus respond with great compassion to a widow suffering the loss of a child. In both accounts the sorrow of the moment, the catastrophe of the event, demands a response. And in both accounts what is revealed to us is the presence of God who stands by the

widow in each of these stories. In both accounts God does not abandon those who grieve and are suffering. Rather, God breathes new life into the moment and brings the gift of hope to those who mourn.

What these two stories tell us is that God does not abandon us no matter how difficult the situation is. God always moves into our lives at moments of greatest pain and difficulty. When all our resources are totally gone, God's resources are just beginning.

The lesson of today is that we should never think that God's only Son came to live among us when everything was going well. Rather, God's only Son, Jesus Christ, came to us so that he might journey with us and sometimes even carry us when life seems difficult and our hearts are heavy. For what is important is the knowledge that God acts in the darkest moments of our lives and blesses our hearts with the gift hope. For God always is always acting on our behalf.