Pilot's rhetorical question to Jesus' testimony to the truth is, "What is truth?" (John 18:38) Today there are those who claim to speak the truth, those who testify to the truth, and those who report the truth in the media. We too may ask, "What is truth?" Do we trust what has been handed down to us in faith? Do we believe that Jesus is Lord and that what St. Paul testifies in his letter to the Romans is the truth, or do we write it off as "fake news?" Paul's anguish is apparent in his letter that his own fellow Jews, have rejected Jesus and the truth he proclaims.

In anguish also are the disciples who remain huddled in a boat, scared to death that they are seeing a ghost, rather than believe the good news of their salvation by God's Son. The situation is out of control, but they seem to be satisfied taking their chances on a sinking boat than trusting Jesus. That is until Peter takes the plunge and places his faith in Jesus. Do you have those desperate moments when there seems no other way out, and you decide to pray? Like Peter, do you say, "Just tell me what to do, and I will do it." Do we really listen to the answer and then do it? If we do respond in faith, do we find that we falter half way through the storm?
The disciples come to believe that if they stay with Jesus the storm will eventually die down and that they can survive the present storm. In this story, the boat can represent the Church and like the Church, it can survive many storms, if we only hold on to our faith in Jesus who is present to us especially in the storms. We know that many of the disciples perished for the faith, and because of their courage born of faith, the Church survives today despite its many storms. They realized that their individual lives were not as important as much as the community they served for the greater good. Each individual was not as important as the Body of Christ of which they were a part.

In anguish to is Elijah, hiding in a cave from those who seek his life. God's command to him is to step out of the cave and face the storm. Because Elijah seeks an encounter with God he does as he is told in the hope to see the Lord as he passes by. To Elijah's surprise, God is not found in displays of power. God becomes present in a tiny whispering sound. How often have we wished for God to exercise power over our adversities? Can we be satisfied with an answer that only gives us the knowledge that God is present? Do we pray for victory or for the strength to persevere in the difficulties? And are we ready to persevere until the end?

There are several truths one can gain from these stories. They are not cheap wisdom and they are hard to embrace. If we pray for the strength to embrace the challenges of life then we may find ourselves better prepared for what will arise in our lives and be able to preserve until the end. The truths are:

1. Life is hard.
   "It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." -Deuteronomy 31:8

2. You are going to die.
   "Run while you have the light of life!" –Saint Benedict

3. You are not in control.
   "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." –Jeremiah 29:11

4. You are not as important as you think you are.
   Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." –Mark 9:35

5. Your life is not about you.
   "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others." –Matthew 20:28

These truths may come as a surprise to some of us, but I can assure you, it is not fake news.