

do. Some of us need to grant forgiveness in order to be freed of resentment. All of us need to embrace Christ's call to be sons and daughters of the Father, brothers and sisters to one another.

Since beginning the consultative process in the development of this pastoral letter, unfortunate incidents both pre- and post-Katrina in our Archdiocese have reinforced

the realization that we still have much work to do to realize the racial harmony in which God wants us to live. I am hopeful of meeting with other religious, elected and civic leaders to address how we together can form one body, one spirit of hope in our community. When Pope John Paul II met with

African-American Catholics at Xavier University in his September 1987 visit, he declared, "There is no white Church. There is no black Church. There is only the one Church of Jesus Christ." It is important for us to be able to say: there is only one community in our new New Orleans.

Embracing All Peoples

When the levees breached, and metropolitan New Orleans was inundated with devastating floods, boats of every kind became life boats for people stranded at their homes, churches or public

buildings. In the Gospel, the disciples experienced a life-threatening storm on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus remained asleep in the back of the boat. The disciples awakened him in their alarm and panic. Jesus rebuked the wind and calmed the water with the winds: "Quiet. Be still."

Some Fathers of the Church and spiritual writers have speculated that the

boat, probably Simon Peter's, could be interpreted as a symbol of St. Peter's barque, the Church.

The storm is expressive of turbulence in the life of the Church. The sleeping Christ reminds us that, in times of trial, God seems to be distant or asleep. Only after the winds die down and the waters are

calmed do we recognize that God was always faithful.

God's people have often turned to music in time of turbulence to express what they were experiencing. Moses did at the Red Sea. David did in his struggles. The Lord did as he and his disciples wended their way from the Last Supper to the Garden of Gethsemane. New Orleans is renowned the world over for music, especially jazz. A significant element of that music is harmony. Harmony presumes difference, since it is possible only when different notes are sounded simultaneously in a manner attractive to the ear. Harmony, therefore, embodies

