

Last month on Friday the 13th, an Italian cruise liner struck rocks in shallow waters, and slowly began to sink. A British newspaper describes it like this:

“Survivors of the Costa Concordia have told of the panic and chaos as thousands of people desperately attempted to flee the stricken vessel.

“Fathers desperate to be with their families ignored the order that women and children should go first. There was even fighting between some passengers who tried to get on lifeboats.

“Some people described it as being an 'every man for himself' situation.”

In today’s Scripture, we hear how wherever Jesus went, he helped people. St. Mark relates that:

*they brought to him **all** who were ill or possessed by demons.
The **whole town** was gathered at the door.*

And how even when Jesus went off to pray by Himself, that his disciples sought him and said to him:

***Everyone** is looking for you.*

We hear similar words from St. Paul in the second reading - how he received nothing for himself, but desired to bring the Gospel to all people.

Which leads us to reflect on our own living out of the Gospel. How do we pray, how do we act with those we love or with strangers, what is our goal in being disciples of Jesus Christ?

We can certainly hope that our relationship to God in Christ is not an ‘every man for himself’ or an ‘every woman for herself’ sort of situation.

Let us pray for an openness to generosity of spirit in our lives. Let us pray to model ourselves on the life of Jesus Christ and the Saints - to be people attuned to the needs of others ... true followers of Jesus - true disciples of the Lord.