

Scripture Reading: Philippians 4:13

*I can do all things, through Christ who strengthens me.*

On a beautiful day in the waters off Marsh Harbor (Bahamas), we tied up to a buoy anchor in Sandy Pass. Scuba gear on and checked out, my dive buddy and I hit the water for our first dive of the day. Before we could surface, we were being propelled past the bow of the boat.

I saw the panic in my buddy's eyes and had to act. I grabbed her hand and signaled we would deflate our vests and drop to the bottom of the pass while being swept further towards open water. "Lord, keep me calm and help us!" We used our fingers to grab the sandy ocean floor and kicked back towards the anchor line. What a beautiful sight to see the anchor and line ahead of us! We grabbed the anchor line and ascended slowly up to the sunlit surface and the safety of the boat.

Aboard the boat and safe, I thanked God for never leaving me. It turns out we dove into a tide change in the channel. Never in 7 plus years of diving had I experienced a current that strong! On our return to the harbor and checking in we learned that the week before a sailboat had tied up to the same buoy. The father and the son diving from the boat were swept out and never recovered.

*Prayer:* Father God, hear my prayer! I am grateful for your steadfast love and calming presence. You never leave me. Wherever I am, you are with me. Amen

- Submitted by Bobbi Moore for the Nineth Reading of Lent.