

**Being Sharers of the Gifts God has given us-18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Year A, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 (Isaiah 55:1-3, Rom 8:35,37-39, Matt. 14:13-21)**

An old man goes to a local restaurant every day and orders the soup of the day. The manager decided to add two slices of bread to his meal. The next day the old man asked for a little more bread, so the manager makes it four slices. After his meal the old man again asked the manager if he could have given more bread, so the next day the manager increases it to eight slices and asked, “how was your meal today?” He said, “Good, but you could give a little more bread.” The next day the manager gave him a whole loaf of bread. After his meal when the manager asked again the old man gave the same reply, “you could still give a little more bread.” The manager goes to the bakery and orders a six-foot loaf of bread. He cuts the loaf in half, butter the entire length of each half and laid it before the old man the next day. The old man devours his soup and both halves of the six-foot bread. Now the manager thinks he will get the answer he is looking for, so he asks, “how was your meal today?” The old man replies, “Oh it was good as usual, but I see you are back to giving me only two slices of bread.

On this 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time our readings tell us about the boundless generosity of God. Sometimes we are never satisfied like the old man, but God does not stop giving. God gives freely and he gives to us in extravagant measure. The first reading of today from the prophet Isaiah tells us about God’s promise to the exiles in Babylon who were doubting whether God was still interested in them. So, Isaiah goes to tell them that one day God will organise a banquet for all people. God promises his generosity saying that though you have no money, come to drink water, wine and milk and have good things to eat.

St. Augustine used to end Mass by telling his people: “Be what you eat.” As we receive the Eucharist today may we be loving and generous like our God. May we be sharers of the gifts God has given us showing concern for the needs of others. St. Paul once said, “what do you have that you have not received?” So today we are reminded that all the gifts and blessings we have received from God are meant to be shared with others. St Paul tells us in the second reading that nothing can keep him from loving Christ. Love is sharing and the multiplication of the loaves in the gospel is a miracle of sharing. We have heard in our gospel today about the miracle of the feeding of 5000 men with five loaves of bread and two fish. This miracle is the manifestation of Jesus as the new Moses and reveals Jesus as the expected Messiah who would give bread from heaven to feed his people.

Jesus wanted his disciples to be sharers, people of generous spirit willing to offer helping hand to others. When the disciples wanted Jesus to send the crowds away to buy food for themselves, Jesus said, “Give them something to eat yourselves.” Jesus was in a way telling them to take some responsibility for those in need and not just wish them away. Pope Francis says that we can also continue this miracle of sharing if the generous spirit of Jesus gets into our hearts. Jesus also wants us too to do something however small it is to relieve the poverty and injustices we see around. With just five loaves and two fishes, Jesus fed a whole crowd. We too our smallest resources that we share with others can bear much fruit. God can even take our time we spend with him however small and use it to do something good. This miracle encourages us to be generous.

After the feeding of the crowd, Christ asked that the leftovers should be gathered so that nothing will be wasted, so they gathered 12 baskets of leftovers. Similarly, we are all called upon not to waste our resources and gifts. However

small or insignificant they may be, we must share these gifts and resources to help and benefit others. Christ gives himself to us every day in the Eucharist and what do we give to him in return? It is by sharing what we have with others. May the Lord take all our giving even when they seem little and use them to change the situation we see around. **Amen.**

**By Fr. Emmanuel Subaar**