



HRVATSKA KATOLIČKA ŽUPA SRCA MARIJINA

Immaculate Heart of Mary Croatian Roman Catholic Parish



17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 30, 2006.



"He took the loaves"

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading 1

2 Kgs 4:42-44

A man came from Baal-shalishah bringing to Elisha, the man of God, twenty barley loaves made from the firstfruits, and fresh grain in the ear.

Elisha said, "Give it to the people to eat."

But his servant objected,

"How can I set this before a hundred people?"

Elisha insisted, "Give it to the people to eat."

"For thus says the LORD,

'They shall eat and there shall be some left over.'"

And when they had eaten, there was some left over, as the LORD had said.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18

R. (cf. 16) The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD,

and let your faithful ones bless you.

Let them discourse of the glory of your kingdom

and speak of your might.

R. The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

The eyes of all look hopefully to you, and you give them their food in due season; you open your hand

and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

R. The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

The LORD is just in all his ways and holy in all his works.

The LORD is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth.

R. The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

Reading II

Eph 4:1-6

Brothers and sisters:

I, a prisoner for the Lord,

urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received,

with all humility and gentleness, with patience,

bearing with one another through love,

striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace:

one body and one Spirit,

as you were also called to the one hope of your call;

one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

one God and Father of all,

who is over all and through all and in all.

Gospel

Jn 6:1-15

Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee.

A large crowd followed him,

because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick.

Jesus went up on the mountain,

and there he sat down with his disciples.

The Jewish feast of Passover was near.

When Jesus raised his eyes

and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip,

“Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?”

He said this to test him,
because he himself knew what he was

going to do.

Philip answered him,

“Two hundred days’ wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little.”

One of his disciples,

Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him,

“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish;

but what good are these for so many?”

Jesus said, “Have the people recline.”

Now there was a great deal of grass in that place.

So the men reclined, about five thousand in number.

Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted.

When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples,

“Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted.”

So they collected them,

and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments

from the five barley loaves

that had been more than they could eat.

When the people saw the sign he had done, they said,

“This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world.”

Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off

to make him king,

he withdrew again to the mountain alone.

Meditations

Did you ever think that Jesus could have let the crowd make him their king after he multiplied the loaves and fishes? After all, that’s what they wanted to do. But Jesus chose otherwise. He chose to be humble.

What can we learn from Jesus in regard to humility? In today’s second reading, Paul writes, “Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called” (Ephesians 4:1). As inspiring as these words are, we all tend to reduce this invitation to specific points of action: I have to do this good thing and I have to avoid that temptation. But this is all a matter of human striving and doesn’t necessarily lead to humility.

True humility means trying to avoid building ourselves up in the eyes of others. It means trying not to negatively judge other people or bring them down in hopes of elevating ourselves. Yet even striving to be humble can lead us to prop ourselves up: “Look how humble she is!” How ironic that what we hope for we do not do and what we hope to avoid, we do!

So personal striving, as valuable as it is, has its limitations. How can we ever learn from Jesus how to be meek and humble of heart? The answer may be found in the way we yield ourselves to God and let his grace form our minds. When we allow ourselves to be fed and strengthened by Jesus, grace multiplies—just as the loaves multiplied when Jesus lifted them up to his Father. Yielding to the Lord will give us God’s power to do what we naturally cannot do. This is why Jesus sought communion with his Father every day, and it is why he urged us to abide in him as well.

Today, tell Jesus that you want his grace to help you view yourself a bit more lowly and view others a bit more highly. Tell him that without grace it is impossible to be humble. Ask him—over and over again—and watch as he transforms your heart.

“Lord, give me the grace to be just as humble as you were the day you fed the five thousand.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Our Pastor, Father Miro Ancic, is leaving for Africa to be a missionary priest. We have prepared a farewell picnic in his honour at the church property in **Richmond at 8611 Sidaway Way on Sunday, August 6th at 1:30pm**. On this day, Father Miro will say his last masses for our blessing and after the masses, we will say farewell to him at this picnic. **Tickets are the symbolic price of \$10, which will cover the cost of the traditional Croatian lunch for each parishioner.** Tickets will be available for purchase in the parish office today. There will be **door prizes** so keep your half of the ticket and you have a chance to win a prize!

At the end of August, we are expecting a new priest from Croatia, **Father Dalibor Grcic**, who will be the new assistant pastor for our parish.

2. As of next Sunday, August 6th, we will no longer be printing **two bulletins**, instead we will be printing **the Croatian one**, which will include some articles in English. So, next Sunday, please take a copy of the bulletin and **let us know how you like it.**

God bless you all

Father Paul