

## Homily by Fr. Anthony Davis

**“God multiplies the little we have to bring great blessing to others”!!**

August 2, 2020

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Is 55:1-3; Rom 8:35, 37-39; Matt 14:13-21

Wherever Jesus went multitudes of people gathered to meet him - people from every part of society - rich and poor, professionals and laborers, even social outcasts and pagans. What drew them to Jesus? Were they simply curious or looking for a healing? Many were drawn to Jesus because they were hungry for God. In other words, Jesus' message of God's kingdom and the signs and wonders he performed stirred fresh hope and expectation that God was acting in a new and powerful way to set people free from sin and oppression and to bring them the blessings of his kingdom. Indeed, Jesus never disappointed those who earnestly sought him out, and never rests in caring for our needs.

And so today, we see a marvelous example of this when Jesus and his twelve disciples got into the boat to seek out a lonely place for some rest along the lake of Galilee, only to discover a crowd of a few thousand people had already gathered in anticipation of their arrival!

Q= If it were us, what would our reaction be? Wouldn't that be an invasion of our privacy, and a rude interruption of a deserved rest after a hard day's work? Yet Jesus certainly didn't drive them away - he welcomed them with open-arms. Yes, his compassion showed the depths of God's love and care for his people.

Hence, Jesus spoke the word of God to strengthen them in faith and he healed many who were sick. Moreover, as evening approached, against the request of the disciples to send the people away, Jesus, rather, commanded his disciples to feed the whole hungry crowd. "...Give them something to eat yourselves..." he said, Really? Over five Thousand people? How possible? Jesus, then, took the little they had - five loaves and two fish from the little boy - and giving thanks to his heavenly Father, he blessed them, and then through the disciples, distributed to all until they were satisfied of their hunger.

What is the significance of this miracle? Basically, Jesus very likely wanted to test their faith, and to give them a sign of God's divine intervention and favor for his people. This means, twelve baskets full of fish and loaves that were leftover show the overflowing generosity of God's gifts to us - gifts that bring blessing, healing, strength, and refreshment. This also symbolizes Christ's desire that we become the hands of God's giving to those the less privileged. In short, God multiplies the little we have, to bring great blessing to others!!

Conclusion: Therefore, the feeding of the five thousand shows the remarkable generosity of God and his great kindness towards us. When God gives, he gives abundantly. He gives more than we need for ourselves that we may have something to share with others. God takes the little we have and multiplies it for the good of others. Hence you and I, in the face of about ¾ of the world menaced by starvation, selfishness, and prejudice, need to become the compassionate hands of Christ to others. And last but

not the least, you and I, in the face of numbing habit, need to approach the gift of the Eucharist again, with the eyes of a First Communion child!! For, “God multiplies the little we have to bring great blessing to others”!!

Amen.