



Eighteenth Sunday in the Ordinary Time

Through the Prophet Isaiah, God invites all who are hungry to come and be fed. Plentiful is the bounty of the Lord for those who come. There is no cost. This invitation is to establish an everlasting covenant which God renews with the people of Israel. The God of the Old Testament (Yahweh) fulfills His promise to watch over and provide for the people He has made His own.

In the account found in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 14, Jesus taking pity on the great crowd that has come to listen to Him orders the disciples to feed them. Jesus is told they have only a couple of fish and some loaves of bread. Once He blessed the loaves and fish they were distributed to the people. Everyone ate to their fill and left over were collected twelve baskets of the fragments of fish and bread. It was recorded that more than five thousand ate that day.

After hearing this story many times, we might take for granted such a miracle, but this powerful action of Jesus speaks beyond meeting the physical needs of those gathered around Him that day. It points to God's desire to give us everything we need and much more. His love and kindness come first in great abundance.

St. Paul in his letter to the Romans teaches us that God not only provides what we need but through Christ remains with us in every circumstance of our lives. He goes further in saying that nothing will be able to separate us from Him. God's love is made manifest most clearly in Christ Jesus.

You and I are recipients of this love as well. By virtue of our Baptism, we belong to Christ and He belongs to us, FOREVER!

Peace,

Fr. Robert