

What did you bring for others to share?

Dear brothers and sisters, every child of God is blessed with some grace which he/she can share his/her divinity with others. In today's scriptures, a man from Baal-shalishah brought his first grain with which a multitude of hungry people were fed. A young boy's lunch of "five barley loaves and two fish" was enough to feed more than five thousand people. What did you bring so that others may be fed?

In today's gospel reading, Jesus opens the door of our minds to understand that he is the bread of life. In this 6th chapter of St. John, Jesus is unequivocal in proclaiming that he is the bread of life and the bread of our salvation. "For unless you eat the flesh of Son of man and drink His blood, you will not have life in you." John 6:53.

Many people, including good looking Catholics, struggle with the Eucharist. Even some priests have a hard time accepting literally the teaching of Christ on the Eucharist as well as the doctrine of transubstantiation. Despite our doubts and conjectures, we still gather daily and most of us gather weekly to celebrate the Eucharist in obedience to the Lord who said, "Do this in memory of me". Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:24.

But there are many other reasons for which we gather within Eucharistic assembly. We gather to affirm our unity, communality and commitment to the mission of Christ. The mission of Christ is to announce that God has reconciled with the whole created world and sends an invitation to accept this reconciliation. By this commitment to the mission of Christ, we preserve the unity of the Spirit. It is this One Body, One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, One Spirit which Paul the Apostle declares to the Church in Ephesians today. We gather to glorify and give thanks to the Father for the gift of his Son, for accepting us as we are and for entrusting us with the mission of reconciliation, knowing that we are not worthy of his trust. We gather as disciples to empower one another because we are all earthen vessels; even in our fragility we bear the priceless message of human salvation. We gather to participate in the heavenly ritual where we are all equal with claim to the fatherhood of God. We gather to hear the Word of God, then, at the Lord's table, we share the Lord's meal, over the gifts of His body and blood through which we are transformed into the image of God and the body of Christ. We gather to be with the Lord and with one another, so, what did you bring?

Some brought their bread and fish, others brought the first fruit of their farm, while some still brought their voices, their presence, joy, pain, sorrow, hunger, peace, challenges and thankfulness for prayers answered. What did you bring so that others may share?

It is important we be reminded that today is the beginning of the six weeks reflecting on the sixth chapter of St. John's gospel which deals with Jesus the Bread of Life – the Holy Eucharist. Within these six weeks, we will be challenged to affirm what the Eucharist means for us as a community and as individuals.

We will draw meaning to why we gather and question how we celebrate.

We will review the value of what and whom we bring to the Lord.

We will measure how well we heed the Spirit who speaks to us every day, every Sunday.

So, what did you bring so that others may share???