

**Fr. John Sassani**  
**Homily Given on July 26, 2009**  
**Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
**Liturgical Year B**

“I beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.”

I had lunch on Friday with a young man, married and the father of three children. He is well positioned in an international software company. I met him several months ago when he was referred to me. He had been away from church for years. Then a horrible car accident led to a rekindling of his faith. He has stayed in touch for coaching in the Christian life.

On Friday, he asked me about my calling, and I told him. Then I asked him about his. He said, “Me? I’m just a guy.” I told him the things he’s said to me. “Christ touched your life. He called you to believe. You’re talking to people at work about your faith. I know, because some of your colleagues land in my office because of your recommendation.” He is living his calling.

Today’s Gospel story is in all four of the Gospels. In Matthew, Mark and Luke, Christ blesses the bread and fish, gives it to His disciples and they give it to the people. John remembers it differently. Christ blesses the bread and *He* distributes it. John sees the deeper meaning – only Christ can touch hearts and lives and change them. The response of the people is that they want to make Him their King, but He escapes. Christ wants us to make Him the Lord of our lives. He was sent into our lives and then He calls us to live accordingly, to speak and to act in His Name and by His power.

In Communion, most of us come up to Him. For others, He passes through the crowd to those who cannot come forward or who stand in the back. Either way, He touches us directly.

What did you bring with you today? Hunger to be satisfied? Thirst to be quenched? Brokenness that needs healing? Gratitude, great and small? Christ is here, speaking to us, passing among us, giving Himself to us. He asks and me to be His followers, to choose Him as Lord of our life. As we choose to let Him be the Lord, we are better able to live a life worthy of our calling.