

## 2 Pastoral Letter

### Clergy

Fr. Miguel Hernandez, Pastor  
Fr. Martin Bui, Parochial Vicar  
Fr. Don Romito, Retired Priest  
Fr. Eamon O'Gorman, Retired Priest  
Deacon Ken Kleckner  
Deacon Jim Merle  
Deacon Jorge Ramirez  
Deacon Victor Valenzuela

### Pastoral Staff

Amanda Hawley, School Principal  
Michael Spillman, Dir. of Business Admin  
Summer Pongetti, Liturgy/Adult Faith  
Jerry Cates, Plant Manager  
Henrietta Moreno, Administrative Asst.  
Andrea Rodriguez, Receptionist  
Eric Brunter, Youth Ministry  
Katherine Gonzalez, Youth Ministry  
Liliana Duran, Children's Faith Formation  
Paul Nguyen, Music Ministry

### Baptisms

Please complete the online registration form at [www.stjosephplacentia.org/baptism](http://www.stjosephplacentia.org/baptism) and you will be contacted by a Deacon.

### Anointing of the Sick

Please call the Parish Center office.

### Funerals

Please call the Parish Center office.

### Marriages

Please call the Parish Center office at least six months in advance.

### Do We Live Our Lives Out of a Mindset of Scarcity or Abundance?

Have you ever been in a situation where there was not enough food to go around? It could be a family situation, a social function, a disaster of some sort, or working or living in a third world country. I just returned from a 10 day camping trip with 19 (hungry) teenagers and three adults. There were meals where we were not sure there would be enough, but somehow everyone got fed. The readings for Mass today made me think about whether I have a mindset of scarcity, fearing I/we won't have enough or a mindset of abundance, trusting that some how, some way God will provide what we need. Both the First Reading from 2 Kings 4: 42 - 44 and our Gospel reading from John 6: 1 - 15, are about God miraculously feeding the people and once everyone was satisfied, there were leftovers! Our God is a God of abundance who longs to feed our deepest soul longings.

In our First Reading from 2 Kings 4: 42 - 44, Elisha gathered a group of prophets around him to share fellowship, encouragement and food as a community. That community life nourished them to go out and minister to others. They were not only given physical nourishment, but spiritual as well. Their true nourishment was God's word, hearing it, having it become part of them and sharing it with others.

The First Reading story parallels our Gospel story in John 6: 1 - 15 and the other five times the story shows up in the Gospels. The feeding of a large crowd from a small amount of food shows up in all four Gospels, which means it had a powerful impact on the Apostles and Gospel writers. (Matthew 14: 13 - 21; 15: 32 - 39, Mark 6: 34 - 44; 8: 1 - 9, and Luke 9: 10 - 17). Jesus takes the bread, blesses and breaks what he is given and, as Elisha did, directs the people to share. The Old Testament story about Elisha has an even greater and richer meaning in light of Jesus' life and ministry. The multiplication of the loaves of bread and the fishes becomes the symbol for Jesus' Eucharistic feeding of his disciples down through the ages with his very own Body and Blood.

What will satisfy our hunger? What do we truly hunger for deep down inside? We hunger for a relationship with Jesus. We hunger for salvation. Where can we go to satisfy our hunger and deepest longings? The meal that will satisfy our hunger is the Eucharist, the meal that we share life with Christ and one another. God wants us to overflow with his abundance!

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# 8 Grow & Go

July 25, 2021 | Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kgs 4:42-44 | Eph 4:1-6 | Jn 6:1-15

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

I once saw Tony Melendez, a musician born without arms, play his guitar for the pope – with his feet – and I knew I had witnessed something exceptional, something extraordinary. We may be feeling the same way about some of the Olympic performances taking place right now. But however amazed Tony Melendez or an Olympic medal performance might make us feel, it is hard to imagine what it must have been like to experience Jesus taking a few barley loaves and fish, blessing them, and somehow feeding more than 5,000 people. How Great Thou Art, indeed! Participating in this miracle was life-changing for those who realized what Jesus had done. They were convinced, on the spot, that Jesus was a prophet, and were ready to carry him away as a king. But Jesus did not come to be an earthly king, he came to give his life for us, that we might have life with him in abundance.

**ACTION** Perhaps it's time to contact someone who has been on your mind lately. A seemingly small gesture of concern may be just the support they need right now. With the help of the Holy Spirit, perhaps you may be a source of affirmation for them, providing a catalyst that helps them discern their path more clearly.

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Now that we are coming out of the pandemic step by step and our Bishop has asked us to return to Sunday Mass where we can be together to feed our souls, it is time to experience the abundance Jesus wants to share with us. We need Jesus and we need one another. Not being with others during the lockdown was the hardest thing for me. I am an introvert, but I need people. And I needed and longed for Eucharist. I appreciate the gift of Eucharist all the more now! I treasure seeing familiar faces at Mass again.

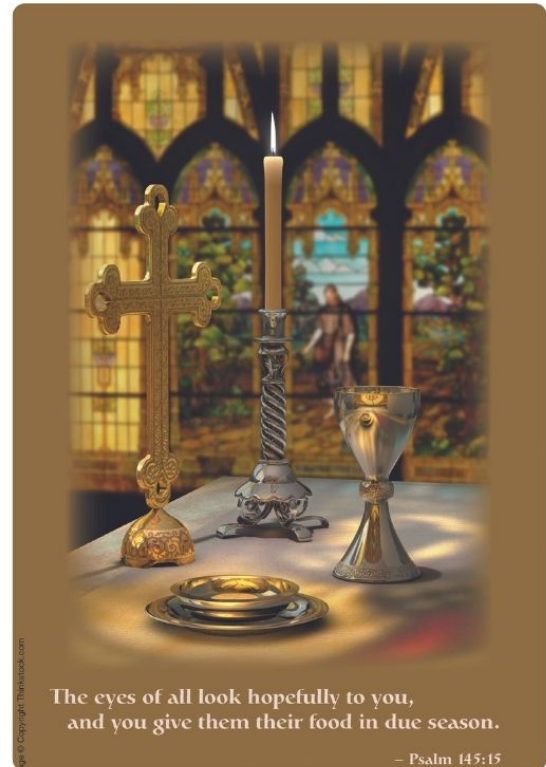
What are other opportunities that God provides to feed our souls on an ongoing basis? Teens, participate in our Youth Ministry programs. Adults, join our Parish Bible Studies, join a GIFT faith sharing group, go on a retreat, join one of our prayer groups. Get involved in serving others. Talk with your friends about your faith and theirs. Take a walk and pray. You will find that feeding your faith can be fun, you will meet wonderful other people on the journey of faith, and you will see and experience God's abundance.

Carol Koppenheffer

## GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

One boy gives up his lunch and Jesus feeds thousands – and there were *twelve wicker baskets with fragments* left over! Think of how God can multiply *our* gifts. Perhaps there are times we fail to share what we have, thinking it is too small to make a difference; thinking that what we bring to feed others can't possibly be worth anything. Sure, what usually happens with us isn't on a scale like today's Gospel passage, and our offering may not be "Olympic" in nature. But in sharing our gifts as Jesus calls us to – to love our neighbor and to do "small things with great love" as St. Teresa of Calcutta is purported to have said – there is no such thing as a gift or talent too small. Ask the Holy Spirit for fortitude as you strive to share your gifts.



The eyes of all look hopefully to you,  
and you give them their food in due season.

– Psalm 145:15