

Homily - Year 18 A - August 2, 2020

Have you ever been in a situation where you planned for 10 people, but, then, without warning there are 15. What to do? Well, Jesus faced a similar situation. People have been following Jesus and are devoted to him. Nothing was planned, but Jesus sees the crowd, sees their need, cures the sick, and preaches. As evening approaches, the disciples ask Jesus to dismiss the crowd because there is no food available. In fact, there are only five loaves of bread and two fish.

Miraculously, there is enough food for all. In fact, there is food left over. A little food was able to satisfy a huge crowd.

Thinking about this situation with Jesus and the many similar situations in our own lives, we can reasonably ask: "How much is enough? How much do we really need?" The gospel clearly says that a little can be more than enough. In our own lives, we have probably experienced the same reality that a small amount can be enough even though we thought we would need more.

Even the first reading of today's Mass emphasizes that we should come to God because there is always enough. In fact, if we go to God, we will have life.

Hearing these words is truly an invitation for us to reflect both on how generous we have been and where we have looked for life.

So, how generous have we been and should we be? Mother Teresa said it best: "We can't do great things; we can only do small things with great love."

Isn't that expression a key to success in our world? The disciples fretted over the small amount of food that was available. Jesus' approach was radically different. For him, there was enough because he did all things with love. Ask yourself this question. Was this a great miracle? Or, perhaps it was a small miracle with great results? The answer to both questions is 'yes.' The key for us is that we will accomplish much if we do all with great love.

Then, there's that other pesky question: "Where have we looked for life?" The apostles thought that they had to look beyond what they had for food. Jesus said no. There was enough food already there. That's the type of question that we tackle every now and then, especially at the big moments in our lives. Where do we find our sustenance, our hope, the meaning of life itself?

Over the many years of our lives we may have done a good job or we may have not been as good. If we have done well, thanks be to God. If we have not done well, we should recognize that is not a permanent condition. No matter our current age, there is still time but that time is not limitless.

The lesson of today's liturgy is clear. Come to the Lord in his abundance, find life in the Lord, live life to the fullest by doing all things with love.

Perhaps, St. Ignatius of Loyola said it best with these brief words: "Work as if everything depends on you, but pray as if everything depends on God."