



Some reflections inspired by online copyrighted commentaries and homilies

August 2, 2020

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## GIVE WHAT YOU GOT!

*“And before I’ll be a slave, I’ll be buried in my grave and go home to my lord and be free”.* O Freedom is a Civil Rights Hymn that encouraged freedom fighters to offer every ounce of their energy for the cause. Similarly, St. Paul encouraged the Roman Christians in the second reading not to separate themselves from God. Confidently, to endure and dedicate themselves to God because in Him we are more than conquerors. However, “Freedom is not free.” Every freedom we claim was won by someone else. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was accomplished through the lives, blood, sweat and tears of countless people who gave all they had to emancipate African Americans into full citizenship in the United States of America. People like Jimmy Lee Jackson, John Lewis, Rev. C.T. Vivian, Rev. Martin Luther King, Hosea Williams, Emmitt Till, Medgar Evers, Juliette Hampton Morgan, Viola Liuzzo, Harry and Harriette Moore, and many others. What all of these everyday martyrs have in common is that they gave everything they had for the price of dignity of African Americans. To be free means to lose something, yourself, It means to give what you got.

In the Gospel, Jesus compassion detects the hunger of those who followed Him to the deserted place. His disciples ask Jesus to dismiss the crowds so they can buy food. Jesus told them to feed the people with what they had. Five loaves and two fish cannot satisfy the crowds' hunger until they bring them to Jesus. The disciples gave all they had to Jesus. Jesus used the Eucharistic formula in order to convert the inadequacies into abundance. He blessed, He broke, and He gave the food back to the disciples, who then had enough to feed the crowds. Jesus created an abundance from the insufficient amount of food brought to Him by the disciples. This miracle also recalls the Old Testament miracle, of Elijah and the widow with her last bit of flour and oil, whereas God provided, and the jars never ran dry. It is not how little we have that matters, but it is what God can do with the little we freely give to Him.

If we notice a few points of interest in today’s miracle. First, Jesus assessed the needs of the crowds and gave what He had. He cured them. They were also hungry. He fed them like God fed the Israelites in the desert. His love and compassion were enough for them. Secondly, following this example, the disciples recognized the need of the crowd but asked Jesus to dismiss them. But you see as in the first reading, Food and Love, certainly are two very important elements in living a content life. Nourishment for the body and love for the soul are both provided by our generous God. Jesus feeds the crowd through the hands of the apostles. Their role points toward our own call to discipleship. We are all called to give what we got, to be able to recognize the hunger of our brothers and sisters, gather our resources, not matter how little and Give what you got! and God will do the rest.

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