

## **Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 25, 2021**

I don't know about you, but if I was faced with feeding 5,000 people there would have to be lots and lots of planning ahead of time! I can't imagine a crowd so big, sitting on the grass. How would people have been able to hear Jesus teach let alone see him. As this is biblical times we are talking about, there would actually have been 15,000 people, or more, in total. You see, the 5,000 count only took into consideration the men. Women and children would have been extra. Think of the Budweiser Center in London. It holds 9,000 people in total. If you have ever attended a concert there, you know the entertainer can look like a dot on the stage, depending on where you are seated.

Anyway, back to the 5,000 hungry people. How did they get to the point that they needed to be fed? Jesus took these people to the point where they were too far from home and too hungry to leave. Jesus talked so long and kept them there, what were they to do? Yes, it was actually his fault!

Back to the issue at hand; how to feed the thousands of hungry people. The disciples saw this as a problem. Jesus saw the people as hungry needing to be fed. The five barley loaves and two fish would not go far with so many hungry people, but then again, this is Jesus who does so much with so little. Ironically at the end of the day, there were more baskets left over than what they began with.

This is what Jesus can do for us. He can take something so small and make it great. Jesus can take what we offer and turn it into something wonderful. Jesus does not need me to be great. He can do all things by himself. But he allows me to help him do things that he himself can do. Why? So that others may see the glory of God and yes, so I can see the glory of God!

It is not my job to multiply or ensure the results, but to provide the 5 loaves and 2 fishes. Jesus does the rest. I just have to provide the bread; Jesus provides the miracle. Jesus can do so much with so little. Even with broken pieces, he can perform miracles.

So, when we see hungry people, do we see a problem or do we see the people hungry needing to be fed. Mother Teresa says "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." We all hunger for something. With the help of God, we can see the hunger in someone else. Be prepared to give what you have away and watch God provide!

Reflection by Julie de Gouw, Pastoral Minister

