

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

ST. MATTHEW



ST. MARK



2013

June 2, 2013

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Lectionary: 169

Gospel Lk 9:11b-17

Jesus spoke to the crowds about the kingdom of God, and he healed those who needed to be cured. As the day was drawing to a close, the Twelve approached him and said, "Dismiss the crowd so that they can go to the surrounding villages and farms and find lodging and provisions; for we are in a deserted place here." He said to them, "Give them some food yourselves." They replied, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have, unless we ourselves go and buy food for all these people." Now the men there numbered about five thousand. Then he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty." They did so and made them all sit down. Then taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing over them, broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. They all ate and were satisfied. And when the leftover fragments were picked up, they filled twelve wicker baskets.

Spiritual Reflection:

Fr. Ronald Rolheiser in his book: *Our One Great Act of Fidelity: Waiting for Christ in the Eucharist* shares the following insight: "Augustine, perhaps the most influential Christian theologian of all time, puts it this way: Jesus didn't leave us the church and from the church we derive the Eucharist: rather, for him, Jesus left us the Eucharist and from the Eucharist we derive the Church. The church is in service of the Eucharist, not vice versa. Heaven will be a banquet table. The Eucharist is that table." Are we placing ourselves at service to the Eucharist or do we think the Eucharist should serve us by entertaining us or by giving us good feelings?

Spiritual Questions

1. What prevents you from fully, consciously, and actively participating in Mass?
2. How does the Church bring the Eucharist to the world?
3. What do we mean when we say the Eucharist is the "source and summit" of our faith?
4. Is the Church necessary for salvation?
5. How can we put ourselves at the service of the Eucharist?

