

APRIL 24, 2020  
Friday of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter  
John 6: 1-15

SHARE WHAT WE HAVE

Our First Reading and the Gospel for today declares God as generous God, so, we, too, must be generous to others. The Apostles after repeatedly jailed, tortured, flogged, and suffered in the hands of the Sanhedrin, they resumed preaching, sharing, and living the teachings of Jesus. “As they left the council, the apostles rejoiced that they were considered worthy to suffer dishonour for the sake of the name. And every day in the temple and at home, they did not cease to teach and proclaim Jesus as the Messiah.”<sup>1</sup> This was the calling and life of the Apostles: be generous to others, a response to Jesus’ generosity, compassion and mercy that He showed and taught them. They were so happy and joyful even if they were considered “unworthy proclaimers” of Jesus’ life and teaching. They continued the mission of their Master and Lord, that is, to preach the Good News of Salvation. The attitude, and boldness of Jesus’ way of life, to make known God the Father, amidst threats and rejection, strengthened the Apostles to also generously laid down their lives for the sake of Him and His Kingdom. They were generous because Jesus was generous.

In our gospel, a young boy was so generous to give his five barley loaves and two fish because he saw the generosity and love of Jesus to His people. “The background to the miracle was a hungry crowd out in the countryside, with little or no food between them. Faced by the people’s obvious need, his disciples had different responses. Philip the pragmatist calculated that, based on the number of people and the amount of money they had, no solution was possible. Andrew knew that someone in the crowd had a small amount of food – five loaves and two fish – but he dismissed this as an insignificant

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<sup>1</sup> Acts 5:41-42 NRSV Catholic Bible Press USA

resource in the circumstances.”<sup>2</sup> The little boy generous instinct to give what he had, modest though it was, gave Jesus an opportunity to give thanks to God and showed the generosity of God for those who were in need. The act of sharing and kindness of the boy, and the prayer action of Jesus led to the feeding of the five thousand people. Jesus Christ through the little boy is teaching us that it is not how much we give is important but how far our heart is in giving. When the Lord sees what is in our hearts, He gives more than what we gave. “The feeding of the five thousand shows the remarkable generosity of God and his great kindness towards us. When God gives, he gives abundantly. He gives more than we need for ourselves so that we may have something to share with others, especially those who lack what they need. God takes the little we have and multiplies it for the good of others.”<sup>3</sup> Let us remember, if we give kindly from what we have, even amidst hardships and difficulties in life, the Lord works good through us. So, share, give and be generous to others. The Apostles and the little boy gave what they had, and Jesus Christ rewarded them abundantly, how about you? Are you willing to share and give what you have for others? As 2 Corinthians teaches us: “Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> [www.associationofcatholicpriests](http://www.associationofcatholicpriests)

<sup>3</sup> [servantsoftheword.org](http://servantsoftheword.org)

<sup>4</sup> 2 Corinthians 9:7 NRSV Catholic Bible Press USA