

FEBRUARY 12, 2022
Saturday of the 5th Week in OT
Mark 8: 1-10

“SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE.”

In the gospel of St. Mark, there are two multiplication stories we can read. The first is the feeding of the five thousand people found in Mark 6: 30-44, happened in the Jewish area. The second is the feeding of the four thousand people found in Mark 8: 1-10, our gospel for today, happened in the Gentile territory. We can see here that Jesus was reaching out to both group and the people were hungry physically and spiritually. Both stories, Jesus was emotionally concerned with the people and the disciples were confronted with the dilemma where to get the food to feed these people.

My dear sisters and brothers, “like the miraculous provision of manna in the wilderness, Jesus, Himself provides bread in abundance for the hungry crowd who came out into the desert to seek Him. The Gospel records that all were satisfied, and they took up what was leftover. When God gives, He gives abundantly - more than we deserve and more than we need so that we may have something to share with others as well. The Lord Jesus nourishes and sustains us with His life-giving word and with His heavenly bread.”¹ This occasion prefigures of what now we called the Eucharist. "He took the seven loaves, and after giving thanks (that is *Eucharistia*), he broke them and handed them to his disciples to distribute. And they distributed them to the crowd."² By the mere action of Jesus – He gives thanks – what He did was the future celebration of gathering of people, around Him, and receiving His Body and Blood in the Breaking of the Bread, the Eucharist. “When we receive from the Lord's table, we unite ourselves to Jesus Christ, who makes us sharers in His Body and Blood. Ignatius of Antioch (35-107 A.D.) calls it the ‘one bread that provides the medicine of immortality, the antidote for death, and the

¹ www.dailyscripture.net

² Mark 8: 6 Holy Bible NRSVCE Canadian Bible Society

food that makes us live for ever in Jesus Christ' (Ad Eph. 20,2). This supernatural food is healing for both body and soul and strength for our journey heavenward. When you approach the Table of the Lord, what do you expect to receive? Healing, pardon, comfort, and refreshment for your soul? The Lord has much more for us, more than we can ask or imagine. The principal fruit of receiving from the Lord's Table is an intimate union with Christ himself. As bodily nourishment restores lost strength, so the Eucharist strengthens us in charity and enables us to break with disordered attachments to creatures and to be more firmly rooted in the love of Christ."³

We can also notice in the gospel that the bread and fish came from Jesus but distributed by His disciples. This is identical today in our time: our duty, mission, or task to feed the hungry, both physically and spiritually, and help those in need. We are now part of Jesus' mission and called to share what we have and serve others. God gives us what we have, it is now our turn to give it back to Him by distributing it to our brothers and sisters in need. May the Blessed Virgin Mary help us to emulate her in serving Jesus and those whom Jesus' loved our brothers and sisters.

³ www.dailyscripture.net