

17th SUNDAY YEAR B 2021.

GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT YOURSELF!

The church calendar year has 34 Sundays in the ordinary time. Today is the 17th Sunday of the year hence we are mid- year of the liturgical calendar. What a good time to reflect on our spiritual journey as we come towards the end of the year. It is a moment to re-evaluate our journey for the first half of the year.

It's a good moment to ***look back, to see where we are and see where we are going.*** A moment for taking stock as to what we have **achieved, where we need to improve and what we need to get rid of in our lives.** Our readings today especially the first and the Gospel address what we truly need on this journey. We need the **strength, both physical and spiritual, hence we need that food.** We all need food for our bodies so do we need food for our spiritual strength and growth.

The First reading shows God's concern for His people during famine. He has instructed the prophet Elisha to make sure they share even the first product from the farm reserved for the offertory. He is giving them something to eat. The left- overs stress God's generosity. So long as we are generous to others especially the marginalized in society, we will always have enough of everything including the surplus. This is clearly seen by the generosity of the boy in the Gospel of today. He provided what he had, and it fed so many people with plenty of leftovers. We need to be generous. Like Elisha, Jesus, the prophet of the new covenant, feeds the starving people showing the fact that the good shepherd is still in action in caring and feeding the people. This focuses on the Eucharist. He took the bread and fish, said the Blessing and it was distributed to the people. What a caring shepherd we have in person of Jesus!

People took Jesus as a prophet and King who will fulfill their **material hopes and ambitions.** They followed him, He paid **attention to them.**

He cured and healed them. They thronged him, touching him, touching His garment. They fell on him, clasped his feet, cried on him. The master spent time with them and addressed all their issues and He was available to them.

Is he not available to us if we go to him today? He is inviting us today to be **kind, generous, and caring** to others especially to those who are marginalized in our society and in the world. This is the call in our second reading. We are called to be **humble, kind, caring, gentle, patience, and support each other in Love.** This is the call of Christianity, to preserve unity in our troubled world where selfishness seems to take the upper hand. Jesus is challenging us to ***provide food for the hungry and justice to all," GIVE THEM SOMETHING YOURSELVES."*** He is inviting us to *share* what we have. He is telling you and me that ***no one should die of hunger in this world of PLENTY AND SURPLUS.*** Let us not ***waste anything while others are in great need.***
God was concerned with the hungry.
Jesus was concerned with the hungry.
You be concerned with the hungry.

HAPPY GRANDPARENTS' DAY. LET'S TAKE CARE OF THEM AND PROVIDE FOR THEM.