

FR.TK. REFLECTIONS 17th SUNDAY YEAR- B-2024:

GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT YOURSELF:

The church calendar year in the ordinary times has 34 Sundays. Today is the 17th Sunday of the year, hence we are in mid-year of the liturgical calendar. What a good time to **reflect on our spiritual journey, a moment to reevaluate ourselves, looking back, see where we are and see where we are going.** What have we **achieved, where do we need to improve, what do we need to get rid of** in our daily activities as we take on the second half of the year. Don't we not need to be like Christ today, he left them after feeding them and **withdrew to the mountains.**

Our readings today challenge us that we need that spiritual food on our journey as we focus on the second half of the year. Both our first reading and the gospel, say this very clearly. Elisha instructs that **give them to the people to eat (2kgs 4:42-44).** They eat and we're left over. We all need that **spiritual as well as physical food** on our journey. It shows God's concern for his people during famine. Elisha is instructed to share even the first product reserved for the offertory. He is **giving them something to eat. The left over shows God's generosity.** If we are generous no doubt plenty will be accorded to us. We will always have a lot of everything including surplus.

In our gospel (Jn. 6:1-15), it recounts the generous multiplication of the bread and feeding of the five thousand plus. We see three characters here in action, Philip and Andrew are overwhelmed by the crowd that they didn't know what to do with this big number. Jesus challenges them **give them something yourselves. Philip was intimidated by the crowd where else** Andrew was quick in scanning the crowd and located a boy who was well equipped with his lunch box. The boy was very **generous to give out and share.** What a generosity from this young person, he must have been excited to give and feed all this great number. Like Philip it is easy to be overwhelmed by the **challenges in this world, it seems to be too complex, too secular and too closed to the gospel message.** The media seem to have taken over what we ought to do, it has created immunity to deep reflection for people

today,creating a **world of reactive emotions and temporary excitement** thus fooling the people away from realities of life.A religious that lives by media,will die by media.Like Andrew we can give the Lord what we have,**and let the Lord work his miracles as he did to the loaves and fish.**internate chat,media flag room cannot **replace the power of prayer and human touch.**each has a powerful gift to give to the Lord and it up-to him to work on it and multiply.

We spend a lot of money on programmers for **evengelization,spiritual growth and parish renewals.**The amount of money spend cannot replace the power of **personal witness,honest conversion and a prayerful heart,**these cannot be purchased or programme or **ordered to be delivered from a company the company is commitment to Christ and supplying him with the simple barley bread and fish.**

We are called to be like the two apostles and as generous like the unnamed young man who provided Christ with all what he had and Christ worked the miracle of multiplication.He will always work it for us at all times so long as we provide.He is inviting us today to be **generous,kind.gentle,caring patience and support those in need.**He is calling us to **provide food to the hungry and justice for all.Share what you have and you will never miss.No one should ever die of hunger in this world of plenty and surplus.**let us not waste anything while someone is in need.God was concerned with the hungry,so was Jesus then **we are called to be concerned.**

GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT TODAY YOURSELF.