

Feeding the Hungry

Wednesday, December 3, 2014
St Francis Xavier, priest



Jesus said: “my heart is moved with pity for the crowd. His disciples said to him, “How could we ever get enough bread in this deserted spot to satisfy such a crowd?” (Matthew 15:32-33)

I have read some interpretations of this gospel in the past, like the one that posits that the real miracle of this story lay in the fact that others shared those five loaves and two fish so that everyone in that vast crowd had enough to eat. Perhaps, because isn't it true in our day that if those who have the five loaves and two fish would share them with the “have-nots” there would be no need for people in any nation in this day and age to have starving people.

You think that would be great for those who “have”, but what about those who have not been so blessed?

- People starve for more than just bread. Someone you may be rubbing shoulders with each day on the way to work may be starving for conversation with you.
- Someone in the same Bible Study as you may be starving for more than book knowledge of the Bible and they see this “more” in you.
- Your neighbor may be home-bound and starving for the Eucharist while you go to Mass daily.
- The person in your parish who was rock-solid in her faith's beliefs is beginning to doubt due to all the Job-like sufferings that have befallen her and her family as of late. She is starving to believe once again.
- Some mentally challenged person seeks you out because she is starving for someone to understand; someone to be her friend.

Reflection:

Today, consider how your compassion, your empathy, your awareness, your kind deeds can multiply the loaves and fish you have given, so that everyone around you is fed. How can you be integral in continuing the miracle of 2,000 years ago?

Prayer:

Jesus, you long to feed the crowds who come to the hillside today. Help me fulfill my privilege as your disciple to give to another what you have given me, and so feed the multitudes one person at a time.

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