

17th Sunday B: "Growing in Spirit of Unity and Bond of Peace through Eucharist"

Friends, what would you do in a situation where you do not know what to do, when your calculations go wrong? Are you willing to offer your difficulties, your problems to the Lord? Your unexpected moment of failure, your sickness, to the Lord?

When you rely on your ability and your power, you are liable to go wrong. But when you offer and surrender your helplessness to God, he will bring out of it a miracle.

God does not want anyone go to bed with a hungry stomach. He has created this beautiful world, rich enough with all resources to feed everyone living on earth. But we also know that many millions still go hungry every day. If so, it's not because there isn't enough for all, but what is available is not shared appropriately.

Mother Teresa, when left the comfort of Loretto convent School as Principal, -1949 had only Rs. 50 (less than 60 cents/USD). But God has multiplied those 60 cents, to enable her to feed the poor and hungry in 120 counties today.

All that the helpless disciples did in today's gospel is: they just offered the very little they had = 5 loaves of bread to the Lord. The Lord multiplied it to feed 5K men plus many other thousands. When they had a situation, *they did not rely on themselves, but turned to God.* God is attentive always to human needs- we need to turn to him. Jesus fed them with bread to teach them about the '*bread of life*'

"Beth-lehem" literally means "**House of bread**". He who was born in the house of bread, "became bread" to be broken for others. He said,

“I am the bread of life”, to be shared. “Unless you eat my body and drink my blood, you will not have eternal Life”.

We are parts of that body, of which Jesus is the head. We are a people, gathered around the table of that living bread-the body of Christ. We who share the same bread, the same chalice every weekend, are required to be like the members of the same body. we call it communion; and we know there is no community without communion; coming in union, in unity of heart.

And this is what St. Paul is reminding us today in our second reading today: we are to become ‘one body and one spirit’, by preserving **the spirit of unity in the bond of peace**. When you and me, sharers of the one bread -*the bread of life*- and learn to become bread to be broken for others, sharing bread and burdens, we honor Jesus the Lord-the head of the body, the Church.