

**For The Bulletin Of
July 29, 2018**



**THE 17TH SUNDAY IN
SUMMER'S ORDINARY TIME**

From Father Robert

Beginning today, the church gives us five weeks of Sunday gospel readings from the Gospel of John. It's as though we are taking a break from Mark to hear from another evangelist. Throughout these five weeks we will be reading from John, Chapter 6, the multiplication of the loaves followed by Jesus' walking on water, and the Bread of Life Discourse. The theology and symbolism in John 6 is profound and has inspired centuries of contemplation and rich exegesis. We remember that the story of the multiplication of the loaves is told in each of the four gospels, the only "miracle story" shared by each.

Last week, we heard Mark's setup to the feeding of the five thousand, but this week we hear John's version rather than Mark's. The two stories have many similarities: two hundred denarii, five loaves and two fish, the crowd numbering five thousand, and twelve

baskets of leftovers, to name a few. But there are some differences to the stories as well.

John's theology is ultimately Christology. John has an intense focus on Jesus. In Mark's version of the multiplication of the loaves, the disciples come to Jesus with their concern about moving the people along before they have to feed them. In John, Jesus takes the initiative in asking Philip about feeding the people. And there is something equivalent to an editorial note saying that Jesus asked this question only to test him. Again, John's gospel shows Jesus clearly in charge, clearly taking the lead, clearly in the driver's seat. Even when He asks a question it is merely to test someone.

The Eucharistic overtones so prominent in Mark are also present in John but in a different way. Rather than four key verbs used by Mark, John uses a Greek term for the "Fragments" that were collected and gathered into the baskets. This Greek term is used by the *Didache* (an early church book written in the first century, parts of which are akin to a catechism) to speak of Eucharist.

Finally, upon witnessing this sign (the multiplication of the loaves) the crowd explicitly recognizes Jesus as a prophet. No doubt the story of the prophet Elisha and the multiplication of the loaves from 2 Kings 4:42-44 was in their minds. Jesus realized the crowd wanted to make Him a king, so He makes a speedy solo exit.

The multiplication of the loaves, with its Eucharistic overtones, its prominence on Jesus and His fulfilling human needs, and the growing recognition by the

crowds that he must be a prophet demonstrate how pivotal this episode was and continues to be.



Living The Paschal Mystery

Jesus satisfied human needs. The story tells us that the crowds followed Jesus because they saw the signs He did on those who were diseased. After witnessing another sign they will recognize Him as a prophet. The recognition on the part of the crowds is based on Jesus satisfying human needs.

We can be reminded of family life and dealing with children. Often as long as all needs (and wants) are met things can seem to be going along well. The children are satisfied. We will see later in this same chapter of John that Jesus asks something of the crowds and most abandon Him. It's easy to follow Jesus when we are on the receiving end of His generosity and goodness. It's easy for children to be happy when they are on the receiving end of parents' generosity and goodness. But what happens when the crowds are asked to make a commitment? What happens when family members are asked to step up and take some responsibility?

Growing into adult discipleship means that there will come a time (if it hasn't come already) when we will no longer be simply on the receiving end of the relationship. We will be called to enter

further into a relationship with Jesus that is more mutually reciprocal, though Jesus will always be the teacher and we will always be in the position of disciples. Jesus will call the crowds closer to the circle with Him. It's easy to be a follower, or a member of the crowd receiving goodies. Soon, those crowds will be invited to go deeper.

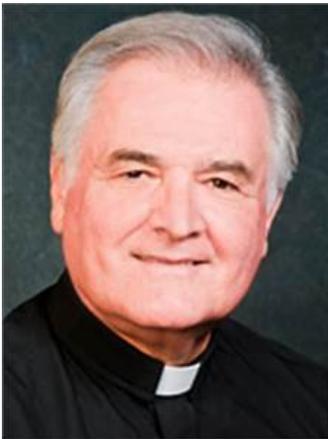
What questions does today's gospel present to you personally?

- We are part of many communities in our lives: family, parish, school classes, sports teams, businesses, etc. What have been some of your most joyful and enriching experiences of community and what made them so?
- What "small gifts" have you received that have made a big difference in your life?
- How can our community take this Eucharist beyond the walls of our church? How can the Eucharist be experienced in places other than this church, in ways other than this liturgy?





The Floral Arrangement at the Altar today is placed to the Glory of God and In Loving Memory of **The 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Fara Costanza** from Carole Miller. The Arrangement at the Ambo is placed to the Glory of God and in Thanksgiving from **Keith and Jennifer Hrabchak for the 15 years they have been members here with us at St. Ignatius of Antioch.** This is their last Sunday with us as they prepare to move to the East Coast for a job transfer. We will miss them and wish them well and every success and blessing in their new home and employment.



“Father Moses” On Vacation

Father “Moses” will be away until August 26th. He will be leading a tour in northern Europe and then taking some well-deserved vacation time in Lucca, Italy with family and friends. We wish

him a great time and look forward to his return in late August/early September.



Our parish is blessed with a corps of people who volunteer their time and talent to help with many aspects of parish life and ministry. We are deeply grateful to:

...those who come early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare both the church and the parish hall for the weekend: **Jun Bajet, Angela Bueno, Heather Hatteroth, Carole Miller, Alfred Madoshi, Jean Rogers, and Rose Salamanca.**

...to those who clean the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Steve Rojek, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, Harlan Young, and Father Robert.**

...to **Dilcia Aparacio** who does such an excellent job of washing, ironing, and caring for the Sacred Linens.

...to our Sacristans and Altar Guild who prepare the sanctuary for the celebration of Eucharist each week:

Peter Degl’Innocenti, Pam and Rich Confetti, Vincent Rodriguez, Harlan Young, Monika Kauer, Cynthia Enrique, Nancy Santos and Rose Salamanca.

...to **our counting teams** who are here every week to count the weekly collections.

...to our volunteers who assisted in the parish office last week:

Melodye Costanza, Rowena Cayaban, Yvette Young, Harlan Young, Joe Fanfa and Bev Iacona.

...to our St. Vincent de Paul and Mobile Mall volunteers who transported last week's donations: **Frank Zamora and Barbara Jackson.**

...to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Dave Costanza, Beth Enea, Richard Enea, Kathy Augusta and Vince Augusta.**

...to our wonderful Parking Lot Security who keep watch over our vehicles during the weekend liturgies: **Don Benson, Steve Rojek and Dave Simpson.**



YLI Installation of Officers

This past Monday evening I attended the Installation of Officers and the Installation Dinner of our YLI. I am so very proud of all the women from our parish who are not only members but also serving in various positions as Officers. On behalf of all of us, I wish to congratulate: **Beth Enea, President; Gina LaDue, 2nd Vice President; Janice Kegler, Trustee; Sharon Simpson, Trustee; Fran Barbanica, Sentinel; and Deanna Ribeiro, Organist.** May this be a truly wonderful and blessed year for your Institute.

