

July 29, 2018

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

GOSPEL JOHN 6:1-15

Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee. A large crowd followed him, because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples.

The Jewish feast of Passover was near.

When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?"

He said this to test him, because he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred days' wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little."

One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?"

Jesus said, "Have the people recline." Now there was a great deal of grass in that place. So the men reclined, about five thousand in number.

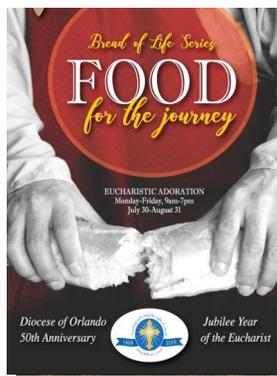
Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted.

When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted."

So they collected them, and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves that had been more than they could eat.

When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, "This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world."

Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone.



July 29, 2018

GOSPEL JOHN 6:1-15

Taken from Fr John Bartunek, *The Better Part*, p 847-9

Friends look out for each other. “Looking up,” Jesus saw that the crowd following him didn’t have any food; that he remedied the situation demonstrates his desire for our friendship. He wants to be our partner in life, our companion,; our confidant. He is looking out for us, always keeping his eyes open for an opportunity to feed our hungry hearts with his beauty and truth. He wants to supply for our needs; it is his greatest joy. As he put it later in this same Gospel, “ I have come so that they may have life, and have it to the full.” Those are the words of a friend we can count on.

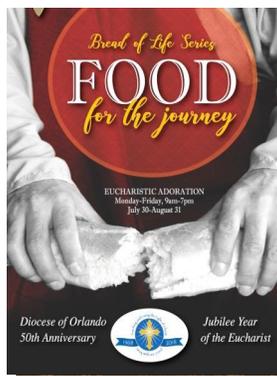
For what do you hunger? For physical food? When physical food met your need, do you still hunger for something else? What more?

Have you ever taken your spiritual or emotional hungers to Jesus? What happened?

It is easy to see how our needs are met with our financial and emotional stability. **If you were the one with the five loaves and two fishes, would you be willing to give it to Jesus, knowing there is a hungry crowd nearby? What attitudes would you need in order for you to give away your only food to the massive crowd?**

As your faith grows and matures, do you see a corresponding growth in your love and appreciation of the Eucharist? How is that love of the Eucharist expressed in your life? (Taken from Great Bible Adventure Series web on the Eucharistic discourse - Gospel of John)

This week, how can you respond to this relationship that Jesus wants to have with you through the Eucharist? Make a resolution to put this faith into action



August 5, 2018

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

GOSPEL JOHN 6: 24-35

When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into boats and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus. And when they found him across the sea they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

Jesus answered them and said, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled.

Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal."

So they said to him, "What can we do to accomplish the works of God?"

Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God,

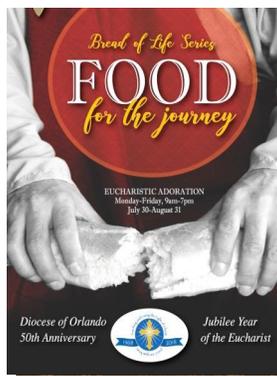
that you believe in the one he sent."

So they said to him, "What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you? What can you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written: *He gave them bread from heaven to eat.*"

So Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

So they said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."



August 5, 2018

GOSPEL JOHN 6: 24-35

Taken from Fr John Bartunek, *The Better Part*, p 850

...Through the miracle of the multiplication of loaves that took place the previous day, Jesus has prepared them (the crowd) for this crucial moment, that first announcement of the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the living sacrifice of and communion with Christ's own body and blood which will inundate the world with his very life. He had been looking forward to telling them. Now the time had come.

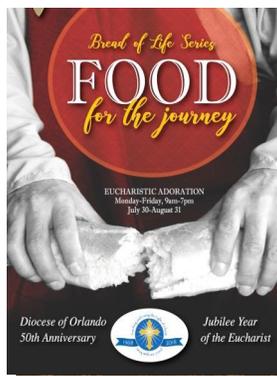
We can imagine the moment in which he speaks the next phrase, how we paused to search their faces, looking into their eyes, hoping that they would respond with faith and trust, but knowing they many of them would not. Finally, as they gaze on him with keen anticipation, he speaks: "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst." He spoke those tremendous, mysterious words and then stood looking intently into their faces, eagerly hoping for a trusting response of childlike faith.

What went through their minds? What goes through our minds?

How do you describe your relationship with Christ? Is it more like an antidote to personal problems, or is it an adventure of friendship, one of mutual self-revelation and discovery?

What are we thinking when we hear the words of Consecration at Mass, "this is my body" "this is my blood." If it has become routine, how can we hear these words anew and renew our appreciation for Jesus' body and blood?

This week, how can you respond to this relationship that Jesus wants to have with you through the Eucharist? Make a resolution to put this faith into action _____



August 12, 2018

NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

GOSPEL JOHN 6:41-51

The Jews murmured about Jesus because he said,

"I am the bread that came down from heaven," and they said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph? Do we not know his father and mother? Then how can he say, 'I have come down from heaven'?"

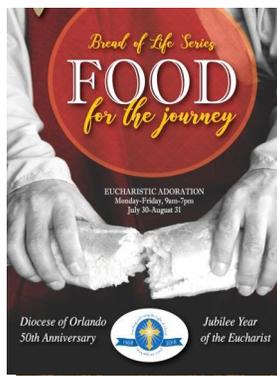
Jesus answered and said to them,

"Stop murmuring among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day. It is written in the prophets: *They shall all be taught by God.*

Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father.

Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die.

I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."



August 12, 2018

GOSPEL JOHN 6:41-51

Taken from Fr John Bartunek, *The Better Part*, p 853

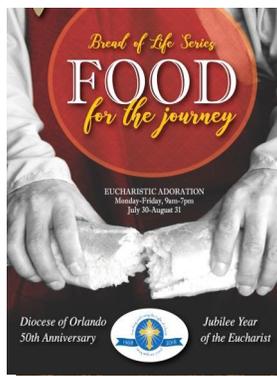
Jesus himself is the “bread” of this eternal life, its source and sustenance. Without bread, without food, physical life perishes; without Jesus, without his “flesh for the life of the world in the Eucharist, our life of intimate communion with God will perish. It is that simple—and it is that crucial. Eleven times in this discourse Jesus speaks of himself as the bread of life; you’d think we would get the message.

If someone were to measure our real devotion to the Eucharist— our active and prayerful involvement in the Mass, our recollection in receiving Communion, the frequency and sincerity of our visits to the Tabernacle, —would they conclude that this Sacrament, is in actual fact, our bread of life?

How often do you get to Mass on Sundays? What’s are the obstacles? Help each other find ways to overcome the obstacles.

The Church requires that all the faithful be in a proper disposition before receiving Communion. **If you find yourself in a place where you should not receive Communion, what should you do? When you are not able to go to Communion, making a “spiritual Communion” is a powerful way to receive the love of Jesus. Share with one another a spiritual communion prayer.**

This week, how can you respond to this relationship that Jesus wants to have with you through the Eucharist? Make a resolution to put this faith into action _____



August 19, 2018

TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

GOSPEL JOHN 6:51-58

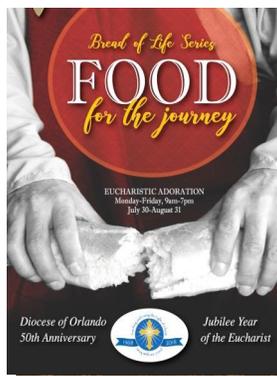
Jesus said to the crowds: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day.

For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven.

Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."



August 19, 2018

GOSPEL JOHN 6:51-58

Taken from Great Bible Adventure Series web on the Eucharistic discourse - Gospel of John)

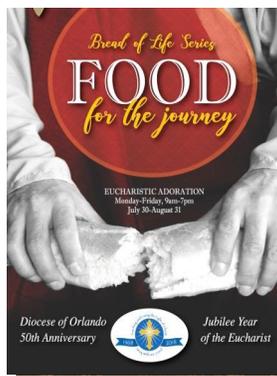
Rather than dialing back, Jesus intensifies his claim by using the “Amen, Amen” formula, which ... is the equivalent of saying “Pay attention. Don’t miss this. Weigh carefully what I am about to say.” In his next breath, he says ““Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day” (Jn 6:53).

It’s not only the specificity and repetition that intensifies his claim, but the Greek words used by St. John in the Bread of Life Discourse. In the earlier verses (Jn 6:49-53), St. John uses the ordinary Greek word for eating (Greek, phago). But as Jesus continues, the stronger Greek verb trogo is now invoked (Jn 6:54-58). This Greek verb means not simply to eat but to “gnaw, munch or crunch.” It’s meant to convey the loud sound like when you bite into celery or a handful of nuts. This shift is meant to remove all ambiguity about what he is saying.

What are the ways the Eucharist has sustained and nourished you through the years?

If we don’t see this passage through the eyes of faith, Jesus’s words do not make sense. **Are there times when faith was NECESSARY in order for you to believe and trust what Jesus was saying/ asking of you? Describe a time in your life.**

This week, how can you respond to this relationship that Jesus wants to have with you through the Eucharist? Make a resolution to put this faith into action.



August 26, 2018

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

GOSPEL JOHN 6:60-69

Many of Jesus' disciples who were listening said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?"

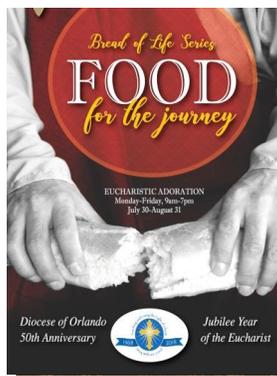
Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them, "Does this shock you? What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe."

Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him.

And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father."

As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?"

Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."



August 26, 2018

GOSPEL JOHN 6:60-69

Taken from Fr John Bartunek, *The Better Part*, p 858

Jesus asks the Apostles whether they will stay with him or leave after the Bread of Life discourse. The choice is always ours. The choice to stay or leave remains with each individual: Do you want to go away too? Jesus refuses to impose his rule on hearts that want to “stop going with him and return to their former way of life.” God has given us all the gift of life, but he leaves us free to administer it as we wish. In the kingdom of Christ there are no misanthropes.

Why do many disciples leave Christ, while the Twelve stay with him?

Reflect on a time when you left the Church or Jesus. What brought you back?

Is there a time you can make a visit to Jesus in the Eucharist at church and open your heart and mind to him? This is a wonderful way to “make reparation” for those who have left the church and no longer believe.

This week, how can you respond to this relationship that Jesus wants to have with you through the Eucharist? Make a resolution to put this faith into action.
