

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A (Mt 14: 13-21)

01st & 02nd of August 2026

Dear friends,

Look around our church today. We see many faces, many heavy hearts, and a world full of big problems. We often ask ourselves: "What can I possibly do to help?" Today, Jesus gives us the perfect answer.

In the Gospel, Jesus wanted to be alone after hearing about the death of John the Baptist. He took a boat to a quiet place. But the crowds followed Him on foot. Instead of being bothered, Jesus felt deep compassion for them. He healed their sick. As evening approached, the disciples grew worried. They asked Jesus to send the people away to buy food.

Jesus said something shocking: "You give them something to eat."

The disciples only had five loaves of bread and two fish. It seemed impossible. But Jesus took the little they had, looked up to heaven, blessed it, and broke it. Not only did everyone eat until they were full, but they also gathered twelve baskets of leftovers.

There is a story about a community facing a severe drought. The local parish organized an outdoor prayer gathering to plead with God for rain. Hundreds of parishioners arrived, weeping and praying for relief. But out of the entire crowd, only one little child brought an umbrella.

The adults looked at the child and smiled at the innocence. But that child possessed the exact faith Jesus looks for in today's Gospel. The child did not look at how big the drought

was. The child looked at how big God is, bringing the little he had—an umbrella—fully expecting God to act.

We see broken families, financial stress, loneliness, and spiritual hunger right here in our pews. We look at our own lives and think, "I don't have enough talent, time, or energy to make a difference."

Jesus tells us today: "Bring what you have to Me."

Our Lord does not demand what you do not have. He asks for your small "five loaves and two fish." When you offer a small act of kindness to a neighbor, a few minutes of silent prayer, or a patient listening ear, Jesus takes it. He blesses it. He multiplies it beyond your wildest dreams to feed the community around you.

In every single Mass, Jesus does this perfectly. We bring forward simple gifts of ordinary bread and wine. He takes them, blesses them, and transforms them into His own Body and Blood to strengthen us all. Trust Him with your small offerings this week.

Let us pray

Dear Jesus, sometimes our faith is small, and our energy feels empty. Take the little we have to offer this week. Bless it, multiply it, and use our everyday lives to feed a world hungry for Your love. Amen.