

REFLECTION FOR THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

During communion, if you require low gluten wafers, please see our Extraordinary Minister, Kathy.

On this Sunday, God shows us that his logic is not our logic. In God's logic, it is by dividing that we multiply, it is by sharing the goods we have that we multiply the good. God invites us to make this same logic our own. In the first reading, we meet the prophet Elisha, who orders the loaves of bread offered to him to be distributed among the people. By dividing the loaves among a hundred people, multiplication took place. Everyone was able to receive their share of the bread.

Jesus Christ also follows this logic in the Gospel. There is a crowd following him, they are hungry, what should they do? For the disciples, the solution would be to send them away and let everyone find the food they needed. However, Jesus' logic is to give them something to eat. The disciples ask him how can we feed all these people? *"There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish"*. Instead, Jesus asks for the people to sit on the grounds. He blesses those five loaves and two fish that the little boy presented. This little boy gave up his food so that everyone could have a bit of bread. When charity is present, *the miracle happens*, division becomes multiplication. With those five loaves and two fish, Jesus' disciples fed the crowd and there was still food left over.

We are invited to enter God's logic, realizing that we are the ones who have to feed our brothers and sisters, putting our five loaves and two fish at the service of all. We too often ask ourselves: *How can I feed the multitude of hungry people I meet every day, I only have five loaves and two fish, I have very little and there are so many needs!* God tells us: share your five loaves and two fish with those who need them, and you will see the miracle of multiplication take place. Today Jesus also says to us that we should give our brothers and sisters something to eat. If we are able to share the little we have with our brethren, we will be able to feed multitudes.

In the second reading, St. Paul asks us to live according to our faith: with complete selflessness, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another in charity. Here, to bear with one another does not mean to put up with one another, but to support one another. To support our brothers and sisters in their difficulties, in their needs, in their illnesses and pains. To help one another along the path of life that we are walking.

May the Lord enlighten our existence with his spirit, and may we learn his logic of love: it is by sharing with our brothers and sisters that love multiplies into bread capable of satisfying multitudes.

Amen.