

Genesis 14:18-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Luke 9:11-17 Luke 9:13 *'Give them something to eat yourselves.'*

Our gospel passage of today is the version of Luke of the **miracle of multiplication of five loaves and two fish**. More than five thousand men were fed, and there was still something left. **Divine generosity can never be exhausted. There is always more even when everyone has been satisfied.**

**The response Jesus gives in verse 13 is what I will base my reflection on.**

Whenever Jesus calls people to do something, it is usually something that he has already done, or is doing. This miracle is at the heart of what we are celebrating today, **the gift of his body and blood as our spiritual food**. When he asked his disciples to give people something to eat, he was inviting them to do what is central to his mission: **giving the whole of himself for our salvation.**

Pope Benedict XVI states that **without the Eucharist (Holy Mass) there will be no Church. Jesus' giving of his body in sacrifice makes the Eucharist a reality**. Even though he gave it once, **the Eucharist continues even today to be that living memorial of his suffering and a death, a reality we celebrate in each and every holy mass. Saint Paul described the body of Christ (Corpus Christi) with different members (all of us) forming it** (1 Corinthians 12:12-28)

The call made to the **disciples was for them to participate in foundation of the Eucharist, so that they become a Eucharistic community**. If we look at how we celebrate the Eucharist today, we notice **that bread and wine are the gifts that we offer as "fruits of the earth and work of human hands."** Without these gifts, the Eucharist is not possible. **Jesus continues to bless these gifts in the Eucharist (through the priest)** and transforms them into something greater, just as he blessed the only food that was available for five thousand men in today's gospel: five loaves and two fish, and multiplied it.

**Our call to be a Eucharist people is to be generous with the little that we have: a call to give all what we have and who we are.** After all, what we have has been given to us as an Italian offertory hymn "Accogli Signore i nostri doni" (Lord receive our gifts) states in its second verse: **"noi ti offriamo le cose che tu stesso ci hai dato" (we offer you what you yourself have given to us), "e tu in cambio donaci te stesso" (and in exchange you give yourself to us).**

**The Eucharist happens when we give who and what we are generously,** the Lord takes and consecrates what we give, and gives it back to us as something much greater.

Let us therefore be generous in giving of ourselves to the Lord. Let our generosity in giving material things be inspired by our call to be a Eucharistic people. **The body and blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) we are celebrating today is rendered present in our midst through our full participation in the ministry of Christ by being generous with who we are and what we have.**

May Almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I will meditate on the Glorious Mysteries today as I pray for your personal intentions.

**Have a wonderful Sunday.**

**Happy Father's Day to all our Fathers.**

**Fr Callistus**