

Liturgically we celebrate, the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Historically, as we glimpse over our shoulders, we see and experience great divisions, divides that separate families, separations that are brutal causing great hurt and grief; we see our Nation, States, Communities and Families struggling. But in spite of the frustrations these divisions cause, there are two unifying and factors that bring us together: good Food and gratitude for the service of our Veterans. Today Food, and another time our Veterans! Today's reading focus on food. As I reflected and begin to write a "Glimpse of My Heart", placing food in the context of our present situation would be appropriate facing the challenges we encounter every day trying to make sure we have enough food every day. In such a situation, we realize not only how important food is, but how vital.

Food is critical for all of us every day. Not only physical food but a spiritual food! Physical food for the strength of our physical life, Spiritual food for the strength within us! As we walk through the Old Testament we begin our food-journey. It was in the Book of Exodus that the Israelites complained about the food Yahweh gave them to eat when they were hungry. We do the same, complain. During the Virus, we saw many people standing on the street corners begging for food, others trying to do some other clandestine things, but food for the overwhelming majority food was the sought-after item, or finances to purchase food; we got stimulus checks, pantries fed the hungry; other outlet asking for donations, clothes items. During this period divisions and separation disappeared for a moment or two; we had people helping people, neighbors helping neighbors. This is like the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Why is this possible in this situation and all the hidden poison, the hatred, animosity, hatefulness and hidden poison seem to vanish? Why does it happen? How does it happen? Where does this evil go and how does goodness transform all of us for a short moment in this poisonous climate to a climate when goodness prevails in an overwhelming fashion.

Today's readings are really intriguing. In the 1st reading Elisha's servant objected to obeying what he was told to do, he realized there was bread left over. In today's Gospel we see the same results. Jesus asked Phillip where we can buy enough bread for them to eat. Phillip's answer is the same one I would give, and you probably would the same way also; looking at the fish and bread; two fish and five barely loaves, this amount could not feed so many. **THE EVANGELIST TELLS US HE DID THIS TO TEST THEM.**

Jesus did not respond directly to Phillip and the other disciples. He proceeded to tell them have the crowd recline. The crowd numbered over 5 thousand men but more because we can safely assume men and women were present. Jesus blessed the food; all ate and had their fill. In the end the Apostles gathered 12 wicker baskets of food left over. Jesus, knowing they wanted to make him and earthly king, slipped away. These readings anoint us and each of us will be tested like the men and women both in the Old Testament and the New Testament and each of us must minister to one another.

Being tested is a universal experience; it happens to all of us. Ministry is for all of us. How Is ministry for all of us. In our readings, ministry happens; **MINISTRY IS RESPONDING TO THE MORAL SPIRITUAL NEED OF ANOTHER. WE MINISTER TO EACH OTHER IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:**

1) WE SUPPORT SOMEONE WHO IS DESPARATE, NEED SUPPORT SPIRITUAL, ENCOURAGEMENT, NEEDS TO FIND THE LIGHT OF CHRIST, NEEDS TO BRING GOD'S GRACE AND GOODNESS IN THE LIFE OF SOMEONE WHO DOES NOT REALIZE GOD'S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR THEIR LIVES.

2) OUR HELP COMES FROM OUR SPIRITUAL STRENGTH. THE PHYSICAL FOOD WE EAT GIVES US PHYSICAL STRENGTH. NOW TO SUSTAIN OUR SPIRITUAL STRENGTH IN NOT LOSING COURAGE, GIVING UP, BECOMING DESPARATE, WE MUST KEEP OUR SPIRIT STRONG IN US, GOD'S PLAYBOOK AGAINST THE DEVIL'S PLAYBOOK WHEN WE ARE TESTED. HE TOLD THE APOSTLES, "REMAIN IN ME AND I WILL REMAIN IN YOU, IF YOU DO NOT YOU WILL WITHER. TODAY WE BUILD OUR SPIRITUAL HOUSE ON SAND IT WILL COLLAPSE AND PIECES WILL GO EVERYWHERE. WE HAVE THE NEW COMMANDMENT AS OUR SUPPORT SYSTEM, LOVE GOD,

SELF AND NEIGHBOR.

3) THE CORPORAL AND SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY ARE CONCRETE WAYS TO OUTLINE FOR MINISTERING TO EACH OTHER.

OUR NEIGHBOR CAN BE A VITAL SUPPORT; ENCOURAGING US, SHARING WITH IS PRAYER, HELPING US WHEN WE ARE FORGOTTEN, VISITING US WHEN WE ARE ILL, HELPING WITH OUR BLIND SPOTS, SHARING TRUTH WITH US, BUT SOMETIMES THAT IS PAINFUL AND DIFFICULT BUT SHARING A LITTLE LIGHT THAT WE CAN FOLLOW WHEN DARKNESS SURROUNDS US, AS IT SOMETIMES DOES TODAY!

MORAL TRUST IS THE FOUNDATION HERE!!!!!!!!!!