

Deacon Tony's homily for the Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary time. 8/2/2015

THE BREAD OF LIFE DISCOURSE

Doesn't seem that we always want more. That we are never satisfied with what we have. There is always a newer car or a bigger home in a more desirable neighborhood. Updated furnishings; the latest fashions. It's human nature to want more and better.

The Israelites, while wandering under the watchful eye of God, never seemed happy with their lot in life. You would think that memory of being slaves would remind them to always appreciate their new life as free persons.

The Jews at the time of Jesus, were getting closer to understanding what they were to be about by experiencing Jesus' miracles. He had gotten their attention and then He began to teach about THE BREAD OF LIFE DISCOURSE.

The bread that fed them had given them strength to work for perishable things; but we are called to partake of food that enables us to work for eternal wealth and happiness.

DO NOT WORK FOR FOOD THAT PERISHES BUT FOR THE FOOD THAT ENDURES FOR ETERNAL LIFE.

That food comes from our relationship with Jesus.

“I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE”

When we became aware of our Christ did we see a change occur in our hearts?
Did we see a change in our desires and what we needed to be fulfilled and content?
Were we at peace? At peace that no one could take from us?

Paul instructs the “NEW CHRISTIANS” in Ephesus to “put away the ‘old self’ of their former way of life and put on the ‘new self’ created in God’s way”. Put on Christ.

In simpler words: **BE CHRIST TO OTHERS.**

In our Baptism we are given a white garment, which symbolizes our role as Christians. We are called to be Christ to others. If Jesus is going to do good for His people He usually uses His followers to put the good deed into action.

One way to hear God's call and act on it is through one or more of the STM Ministry Programs. Look through the brochures on the racks in the back of the church for your ministry. Make Jesus' work a priority in your life.

When I realized my relationship with Jesus, I felt a peace that no one could take from me. It was almost like enjoying heaven's happiness as a preview to life in eternity.