

DEACON TONY'S HOMILY FOR THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus is present to us in the scripture and in the Eucharist. These next few weeks we will center on the Eucharist as the BREAD OF LIFE. But before we get into that I would like to put things into perspective.

The Scriptures were written decades after Jesus walked on the earth. It was never meant to be a news reporting or chronical of information. It was written for early Christians as a guide to following Jesus.

The people of that time needed the Scriptures to 1) find Jesus in their lives and 2) stay alert and strong during times of trouble. What has always seemed interesting to me is that the Bible has always spoken to me as it did for Our Lord's followers, 2000 years ago. Our needs today are the exact same needs of the early Christians and all Christians who seek to be whole and productive.

One fact that is essential for all believers is **THAT GOD CARES DEEPLY FOR HIS CHILDREN.**

WHOLENESS is a human need that has spanned the ages of time. When Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee, The people went looking for Him and walked 9 or so miles to follow him.

They needed to be whole and felt that He had the formula for incompleteness.

They didn't realize that they were to be a preview of a banquet meal that God would use to feed His children throughout eternity. **THE BREAD OF LIFE, THE BREAD OF A LIFETIME.**

The question we must ask ourselves is: WHY ARE WE HERE?

Why do we keep coming back to god's house? Why did we join a faith community?

WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?

We come here to satisfy a deep need to be complete. Our need is so deep that only Our Lord coming to us in the Eucharist can satisfy our need. We want to perform great tasks that we are not equipped to tackle.

But reflecting on the Scriptures today we should see that even the lowly and unequipped,

WITH THE SUSTENENCE FROM THE EUCHARIST CAN DO GREAT TASKS.

******* Also the symbols from the Gospel should give confidence:**

12 baskets left over – 12 is the perfect number because it takes 3 (which is the number for God)

and multiplies it by 4. Any number mixing 3 and 4 is a symbol in the bible of God mixing with mankind which is always results in great outcomes.

"The Jewish feast of Passover was near.

Passover, the great event when God saved His people from slavery.

We too need to be set free from the slavery and we know that receiving the Eucharist takes away all venial sins. So we come to received and be strengthened and nurtured.

"Lord you strengthen us through Your Word and Sacrament; Lord have mercy.'