



HOLY TRINITY PARISH

Hudson and Germantown, New York

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July 18, 2021

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Photo of Passion Flower by Father Anthony

VERY REV. ANTHONY BARRATT, E.V.
Pastor

DEACON RICHARD WASHBURN
Deacon

REV. WINSTON BATH
Pastor Emeritus

THE FEEDING OF THE FIVE THOUSAND
(17th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Year B)
Jesus asks us to be his helpers...

In our First Reading (2 Kings 4: 42-44), we hear about how a man brings to the prophet Elisha an offering of the first fruits of his harvest. This was a wonderful custom and, of course, we still do this today with festivals such as Thanksgiving or a Harvest Festival. We can imagine the servant's surprise when he is told to offer it to all the people who are there, especially as the barley loaves would have been quite small. Elisha insists and so the people are fed. It is a wonderful sign of many things. First it is a sign of God's power to do great things with what might seem to be the little we offer him, or with the apparent inadequacy of our resources or gifts. It is also a potent sign of God's love and care for us. As the Psalm today notes (Psalm 145); the hand of the Lord feeds us and he answers all our needs. Indeed, God opens His hands and satisfies the desires of every living thing. Of course, we are given this passage of Scripture as a sign or prophecy, or, to use the technical word "type," of the miracle that Jesus performs in our Gospel reading today.

All this, therefore, prepares us for the Gospel reading. In fact, this Sunday, we begin reading the Gospel from the sixth chapter of St. John's Gospel (John 6: 1-15). We have been following St. Mark's Gospel in Year B (our current Liturgical Year). However, St. Mark's Gospel is the shortest and so we would run out of excerpts to use before we get to the end of the Year! When the Lectionary was revised, it was decided to add in a five-week long extract from St. John's Gospel to fill in the potential gap. Chapter Six of St. John's Gospel, the Feeding of the 5,000 and the "Bread of Life" discourse, was happily chosen to do this. It gives us the opportunity to have what we might call a brief "summer school" on the Eucharist.

Jesus performs a great miracle in feeding the 5000 and this becomes the occasion for him to teach about how he is indeed "the Bread of Life." As noted, we will be following this teaching over the next few weeks and it will be a wonderful opportunity for us to refresh our understanding of the Eucharist and to appreciate this great gift even more. As we begin this project, it is good to look at a small and often overlooked detail in the Gospel. Jesus could, of course, have produced the miracle from nothing; but he does not. Instead, notice how he used the five barley loaves and two fish that a small boy supplies.

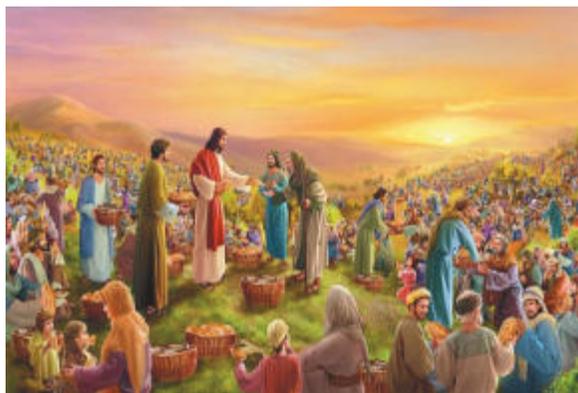
In this detail, we have a wonderful example and lesson for us. Jesus can produce great things in us. We can be his instruments in feeding those in need; not just

physically hungry, but also spiritually starving. However, we need to be like that boy in the Gospel and be generous. We need to offer the Lord the little that we have, so that he can work in and through us. Yes, there is so much need that we can feel overwhelmed: what can I do? Well, we can do much, for in small yet generous acts of kindness, we are helping our Lord. He will supply the increase in what might seem to be our very limited resources or abilities. What is more, in helping others in need, we are actually helping Jesus (remember the words in St. Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 25). We then need to see Jesus in others, especially in the poor and the needy

With this in mind, Saint Teresa of Kolkata wrote a wonderful prayer...

Jesus is the Hungry - to be fed.
Jesus is the Thirsty - to be satiated.
Jesus is the Naked - to be clothed.
Jesus is the Homeless - to be taken in.
Jesus is the Sick - to be healed.
Jesus is the Lonely - to be loved.
Jesus is the Unwanted - to be wanted.
Jesus is the Leper - to wash his wounds.
Jesus is the Beggar - to give him a smile.
Jesus is the Drunkard - to listen to him.
Jesus is the Mental - to protect him.
Jesus is the Little One - to embrace him.
Jesus is the Blind - to lead him.
Jesus is the Dumb - to speak for him.
Jesus is the Crippled - to walk with him.
Jesus is the Drug Addict - to befriend him.
Jesus is the Prisoner - to be visited.
Jesus is the Old - to be served.

Father Anthony



The Fascinating Story of the Passion Flower (Passiflora)

The picture on the front cover of the bulletin is of the Passion Flower, that is growing in the Rectory garden (do go and have a look). The flower is called a “passion” flower for interesting and religious reasons.

Apart from the flower’s beauty, this is the reason why it is grown in the Rectory garden, along with other religiously themed plants such as the “angel trumpets”!

Back in 1600’s, Spanish Christian Missionaries came across these beautiful climbing plants. They then used each part of the flower to teach and to explain the story of the Passion of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Here is the symbolism attached to each part of the plant, especially the flowers:

The flower is a light purple: the color of the season of Lent

The ten sepals/petals: the ten apostles present with Jesus during his Passion (excluding Peter and Judas). Some also say it is the ten apostles present when the risen Lord first appeared (minus Judas and Thomas).

The three stigma: the three nails that held Jesus to the cross (hands and feet)

The five anthers: the five wounds of Jesus (hands, feet and side)

The filaments around the center: the crown of thorns

The leaves with 3 points: The Holy Trinity

The vine itself: God’s attachment to us (“God so loved the world that he sent His only Son”) and, of course, also Jesus as the true vine.

It is not easy to grow the Passion flower vine and it has to be over-wintered inside, but with all that beauty and symbolism, it is certainly worth it!

God bless, Fr. Anthony

MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Weekday (July 19)

7:15 AM Lorene Bowes - Dan & Jennifer Pelesz
Mary Lou Washburn - Lynn Hart
Terez Hajdu - Cathy French

TUESDAY: Weekday (July 20)

7:15 AM Andrew J. McDonald - Judy & Jennifer McDonald
Mary Lou Washburn - Tom & Debbie Daus
Jose A. Totengco, Jr. - Bob & Roxan Donnelly

WEDNESDAY: Weekday (July 21)

7:15 AM Danilo Murcia - Margot Slutsky
Vaughn Grener - Bill & Stephanie Keyser
Scott Sheak - Richard & Pat Nobes

THURSDAY: St. Mary Magdalene (July 22)

7:15 AM Ellen Marie Skoda - Children
Mary Lou Washburn - Sharon Novak Craft
John “Jack” Curry - Bill & Stephanie Keyser

FRIDAY: Weekday (July 23)

7:15 AM Mary & Al Warakowski - David P. Warakowski
Michael Jezuit - Brian & Vickie Goodrich
Gloria Nero - Cousin, Sharon Novak Craft

9:00 AM Anita C. Pignataro - James Skoda
(G’TWN)

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS: (July 24)

4:00 PM John Nytransky, Sr. - Ken & Chrissy Baccaro
(HUD) Ann, Phil & Joseph Bruno - JoAnn Marvin
Anna, Florence, Bob & David- Rudolph Ponkos & Family
John “Dubber” Laurella - Joseph D’Onofrio

5:30 PM Leo Scrodin - Bernadette Orr & Genevieve Van Tine
(LNLTH) Living & Deceased of the Parish

SUNDAY MORNING MASS: (July 25)

9:00 AM John & Leo Slominski, & Dorothy Weber -
(HUD) Ted & Jackie Filli

Barbara Riegel - Teresa Riegel
Carl Heinz Wolf - C.C. Chernick
Paul Kozlowski - Gaschel Family

11:00 AM Marie Palomba - Martin Family
(G’TWN) Mercedes Trivino - Paul & Mercedes Comosanas

Readings for the Week of July 18

Sunday: Jer 23:1-6/Ps 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6 [1]/Eph 2:13-18
/Mk 6:30-34
Monday: Ex 14:5-18/Ex 15:1bc,-2, 3-4, 5-6 [1b]
/Mt 12:38-42
Tuesday: Ex 14:21—15:1/Ex 15:8-9, 10 and 12, 17 [1b]
/Mt 12:46-50
Wednesday: Ex 16:1-5, 9-15/Ps 78:18-19, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28
[24b]/Mt 13:1-9
Thursday: Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9
[2]/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
Friday: Ex 20:1-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [cf. Jn 6:68c]
/Mt 13:18-23
Saturday: Ex 24:3-8/Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15 [14a]
/Mt 13:24-30
Next Sunday: 2 Kgs 4:42-44/Ps 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18
[cf. 16]/Eph 4:1-6/Jn 6:1-15



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