

Pastor's Letter

July 28, 2024—17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Church Family

When we look at the problems facing the world, we might be tempted to think that there is nothing we can do about them. Global challenges like pandemics, famine, poverty, war, climate change, and the erosion of spiritual, moral, and social values all seem to be beyond the ability of any one of us to overcome. There is so much need out there. What could we possibly have to offer to meet it?

In our Gospel reading for today St. Andrew asks that very question. Confronted with the challenge of trying to feed five thousand people he says, “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?” But when this small offering is placed in the hands of Jesus, it becomes more than enough to meet the need. Because the disciples (including the boy who gave up his lunch) are willing to give the little that they have, our Lord adds to it from the abundance of his power and love and all those people experience the miraculous providence of God. This great miracle reminds us that if we make ourselves available to God, however limited our gifts or imperfect our love may be, God can use us to accomplish great things that glorify him and help our fellow human beings.

But the feeding of the five thousand points to something even more profound and powerful. When we read how Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them we can't help but be reminded of our Lord's gift of himself in the holy Eucharist. And when we receive that gift in holy communion, God doesn't just do great things for us, he does great things in us. If we are open to it, we are healed, renewed and strengthened in our pursuit of holiness. Just as there was more than enough food after Jesus blessed it, we receive more than enough grace to meet our own needs and the extra that we receive can be poured into the lives of others. And sharing God's love with others is another gift in itself.

Blessings,
Fr. Scott