



## SAN RAFAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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January 2020

Dear Parishioners:

The Gospel of Mark recounts how at one time Jesus fed a multitude of five thousand men (not counting women and children)! When told to feed the crowd that had been following Him His disciples said, in effect: *“What? Are you joking? We can’t do this because we haven’t got what we need. Tell them to go to the local towns and farms and get something themselves.”* Jesus, of course, wouldn’t take “no” for an answer. When asked what resources were at hand the disciples said they had five loaves and two fishes. *“What good is that for so many?”* Jesus showed them what He could do with a few, meager resources. He took those few bits of food and not only fed everyone there but had baskets of leftovers. Later, as He went off to pray He sent His disciples off in a boat to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. As they were going and the water became rough Jesus suddenly showed up walking on the water toward them. This time, scared out of their wits they thought He was a ghost and began to panic. It was then that Jesus said to them: *“Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid!”* and climbed into the boat with them, calming the wind and choppy water. *“Do not be afraid.”*

Jesus took some meager rations, blessed and shared them and fed the crowd. He calmed the frightened disciples in the boat, assured them of His presence and stilled the threatening weather against which they were struggling. In both instances the disciples were amazed and over time came to believe in Him as the Christ.

Look what Jesus did then. Look at what He asks us to do now. He asks us to feed the Church, the people of God, with our resources. We might protest and say “We don’t have enough.” But when we take the resources with which we’ve been blessed and give them to Him not only are the immediate needs of the Church met but a surplus is produced. When we find ourselves rowing against the wind and think Jesus is just a phantom He assures us that He is really one with us, climbs into the boat and calms our fears.

Once again, the Diocese of San Diego comes to us and asks us to offer what meager resources we might have to help the Church. When we take the gifts God has given us, be they great or small, and share them – the Church, God’s people, is fed. Should we fail to respond to His call out of fear – the Church, God’s people, goes hungry. As well as our regular parish support the Diocese comes to us with the Annual Catholic Appeal and asks us, in the name of Jesus, to share what we have so that the ministry we provide can continue to bring healing, comfort and peace to this small corner of the Lord’s Vineyard.

San Rafael’s ACA goal this year is \$108,000 to help the diocese meet its needs. If we consider ourselves faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, proud members of the Catholic Church, how can we not respond to the appeal of Jesus to feed the crowd?

This year, once again, will you join me in contributing to the Annual Catholic Appeal of the Diocese of San Diego? I, myself, pledge \$800 to the ACA. If you can match me, great! If you can surpass me, wonderful! If you can’t meet that but just contribute what you can, God bless you! We have every reason to be proud as Catholics for the work the Church has done and continues to do in the name of Christ. Five small loaves and two fishes fed thousands of hungry people when given to the Lord to share. Think what we can do in His name by assisting in His work to the ACA despite the storms and doubts we encounter along the way!

Sincerely,

Msgr. Dennis L. Mikulanic  
Pastor

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