

Daily Message from Msgr. Dennis...

Friday, April 24, 2020 ~ Second Week of Easter



Readings: Acts 5:34-42; Psalm 27:1,4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-5

Dear Parishioners:

In today's gospel passage from John Jesus shows his loving concern for those who follow Him. He Himself had to have been tired. After all, people were making all kinds of demands on Him and even when He tried to get away for awhile to rest the crowds followed Him with great expectation. The people were attracted not only to His message but to His work. John tells us that 5,000 men (not counting women and children) had gathered and they were hungry. Not only does He know what He's going to do but He enlists the help of His Apostles to do it as He uses them not only to bring the loaves and fishes to Him but to distribute what He miraculously multiplied, and then to pick up the remains after everyone had their fill. This is the beginning of the eucharistic chapter of John in which Jesus plainly tells us that He is the bread of life that assures salvation. However, the focus for this reflection is not so much on what Jesus did to feed the crowd but what He commissioned His disciples to do: to assist Him in taking care of the people. As disciples of Jesus Christ we cannot be content to sit idly by and let everyone else around us do the work that needs to be done. If we have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior we must say "yes" to Him when He asks us to reach out in His name to assist others. This is important all the time but even more so now during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. Call a friend, a neighbor, an elderly person who is shut in. If able, offer to be of some assistance to someone who can't get outside. Make the herculean effort to be patient with the spouse or kids with whom you're "locked up." In other words, reach out as a disciple of Jesus to bring His words and comfort and peace to those who need it, yourself included. Jesus managed to feed and encourage the crowd because His disciples were there to help Him. He needs us, His disciples, to do the same now.

Question: What does COVID-19 mean? **Answer:** Corona Virus Disease 2019. So. There you are.

A little humor: A man said: "I have the most loving wife. Last night I woke up while she was holding a pillow tightly over my face to protect me from COVID-19."

To be fair: The same man said: "I returned from the grocery store with the wife. Took the masks off. It turned out it was wrong wife! Be attentive!"

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