



**Blessed Sacrament Parish**  
**Homily by Monsignor Michael Kuse**  
**July 29, 2018 Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Reading I 2 Kings 4:42-44**

**Psalm 145:10-18**

**Reading II Ephesians**

**Gospel John 6:1-15**

**Homily**

You notice throughout the years we have a Cycle A, B, and C in the Scriptures. This year we are in the Gospel of Mark, and Mark is the shortest Gospel so to have enough material for the entire year, they took the sixth chapter of the Gospel of John which is about the Eucharist — and placed that in the liturgical year. So, every three years we hear these Gospels. This sixth chapter of John is what we will hear about today, and it is about the Eucharist.

So I want us to think this morning, “What is the message Jesus is giving here?” He has been working all these miracles, but if you notice back in the time of Jesus they called out men. Women didn’t have a voice, children didn’t have a voice. But then all of a sudden he calls out this boy who should be keeping his mouth shut and being kept away, and Jesus says, “Bring that young man over.” And he took those five loaves and those two fish the young boy had — and fed thousands of people.

It’s not about the bread and the fish. What Jesus says, “When I am in your life, you shall never fail. You shall never run out of the grace to live your Gospel life.” And so you and I have to say, “Wow.” And you know it is amazing that after everyone had more than enough to eat, it says they filled twelve wicker baskets representing the twelve tribes of Israel. Which means, it covers everybody meaning, “When I give my body and blood to you, no one will be left out, no one will ever run short.”

And then as you follow the Gospel, Jesus goes through the Last Supper, the washing of the feet, his death on the cross, and his glory to God. So this little scenario of that chapter is Jesus’s way of saying, “If you think this is something, you just hold on.” But he is asking us, “You come to church all the time. Do you know why you come to church?”

“Well, yes. I’m Catholic.”

Jesus says, “Don’t give me that stuff. Why do you really come here?” And eventually he would draw out of each one of us, “I come here to sustain my life. I come here so that I

get enough in me to take care of my husband, my wife, my kids, my next door neighbor, my co-workers, whoever it happens to be — so that I never have to worry about having enough.” So when he comes to that Last Supper, what does Jesus do? He kneels down and says, “I want to wash your feet. And I want you to wash feet for the rest of your lives.”

He is not talking just about Holy Thursday where we take off our shoes and socks and symbolically we do that. Washing feet just means — living the Gospel. If a neighbor comes over and says, “Take my kids. I have to go somewhere.” And you just take the kids. You don’t ask, “Well what for. I’m busy doing this and that.” You just take the kids. That’s washing feet. Someone loses his job. There will be someone there to wash the feet. It may be a lonely experience but all of a sudden you find out, “Thank God I lost that job because what I have now is better than what I had.” God will never fail any one of us.

But we need to come here to be fed. And the power here is that all of us come from different homes. If you came and I wasn’t here, there would be no Mass. If you didn’t show up, and I was here there would be no Mass. I cannot say Mass by myself. It is not about me. It is about me washing feet and enabling that Jesus can live in us. Sometimes we are missing that in our lives. We want to be self-contained, “I can do this without Jesus.” And Jesus will simply say, “Go ahead. Give it a try. Eventually you will find your way back home.”

And so this morning you and I have to say, “Wow. I have been going to Mass for quite a while. I have been receiving the body and blood of Christ for quite a while. Am I taking it for granted?” When you and I leave church this morning, Jesus is not just saying, “Nice to see you.” What he is really saying to each one of us is, “I am going to kick your butt right out the door and you better do something this week. If anybody needs you, you had better stoop down and wash their feet.” And if you’re on the other side, maybe you need your feet washed and then let somebody else wash your feet. That is why Jesus said, “You don’t have a voice, but I am going to give you a voice. You are going to stand here and watch me feed thousands of people.” I guarantee you, that little boy was changed forever.

That is the power that God gives to us, but he is saying, “Don’t blow it. Don’t take it for granted.” The biggest challenge we have today is that people proclaim they are Catholic and God help you if you say they aren’t Catholic. But they don’t have the time to come to church. I am not here to judge, and no one else is here to judge. All I am saying is, maybe they aren’t in church because you and I are not washing feet. Maybe we are not giving them that spark to say, “I’ll see you on church on Sunday.” We are a community of believers. If we really believe what is happening here this morning, it is not a little wafer. It is not a sip of the wine. Someone may ask, “Why are they so cheap.? Why don’t they give you a whole loaf of bread and a bottle of wine?” And Jesus says, “You don’t get it. You just don’t get it.”

I walk up here in faith and that is why we say, "Amen. Amen." And when you walk out of church you don't have a worry in the world because God is going to give you everything you need for this week and for the rest of your life.

But we have to be humble.

I am going to share with you briefly a passage I read very day. It is a little sheet of paper that I keep in the Liturgy of the Hours that I say every morning and every evening. It was written by a young man who was in seminary with me. It was written in 1996 so I have been saying this prayer for quite a few years. But it is a very humbling prayer. It refers to the priesthood — but you are part of the priesthood as well.

"The day you were called to break bread for the living,  
was the day you were called to be broken.  
The days you spend bending over bread,  
Are spent bent around the mystery of fraction.  
If you are indeed broken,  
You need to gather up others fragments gently,  
And remember again how through you  
He feeds so many with so little."

This Mass is not about me. It's about us, and we are here to share the brokenness of life and to gather everything up and walk out of here the healthiest, the strongest person we can be.

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