

JULY 31, 2011: Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



But they said to him, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have here." Then he said, "Bring them to me," and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. ... Mt 14:17-19

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1979 CCB

LITURGY

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sun., July 31 (Is 55:1-3/Rom 8:35, 37-39/Mt 14:13-21)

8:00 am- Jerome & Alice Kocian

10:30 am- Annie Orosco

5:00 pm- For our Parish Family (Spanish Mass)

Monday, August 1, St. Alphonsus Liguori, bishop & doctor of the Church (Nm 11:4b-15/Mt 14:22-36)

7:00 am- Felix & Mary Janecek

10:00 am- Joe & Benita Pavlu (H'ville Rehab)

Tuesday, August 2, Sts. Eusebius, bishop, & Peter Julian

Eymard, priest (Nm 12:1-13/Mt 14:22-36 or 15:1-2, 10-14)

7:00 am- Living & deceased members of KJT #5

Wednesday, August 3 (Nm 13:1-2, 25---14:1, 26-29a, 34-35/Mt 15:21-28)

7:00 am- Joe & Lydia Kostelnik

8:05 am- James Bozka

Thursday, August 4, St. John Mary Vianney, priest (Nm 20:1-13/Mt 16:13-23)

7:00 am- Mary Butschek

10:00 am- Julius & Sidonia Mikulenka (Stevens)

Friday, August 5, The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome (Dt 4:32-40/Mt 16:24-28)

7:00 am- Thelma & Ann Spies

8:05 am- For Rain

Saturday, August 6, The Transfiguration of the Lord (Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/2 Pt 1:16-19/Mt 17:1-9)

5:30 pm- Alfons & Cecilia Grahmann, Cleo & Magdalen Muras

Sun., August 7 (1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a/Rom 9:1-5/Mt 14:22-33)

8:00 am- Fred & Angeline Pustejovsky

10:30 am- For our Parish Family

Bulletin Sponsor: KJT Society #5.

Radio Broadcast Sponsor: In memory of Jim, Willie Mae & Jimmie Kahanek by Charles & Doloris Leopold.

Vigil Light: In memory of James Bozka.

Our Gift to God: Envelopes-\$4,693; Loose-\$1,290; Children-\$37; Manna-\$801; Catholic Education-\$680.

Anniversaries:

James & Joyce Bucek 59 years Aug. 3

Flowers this weekend at the Altar of Sacrifice are in memory of Tyler Bludau by Steve, Renee & Christa Bludau.

Perpetual Adoration – an adorer is needed on Fridays at 3:00 p.m. If you are able to spend this hour in adoration with our Lord, please call Charlene Bradbury at 798-3224.

Christian Mothers Swim Social, Monday, August 1, Hallettsville Swimming Pool, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Members are asked to bring sandwiches, chips, dip or dessert. Drinks will be provided. All members & their family are welcome.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, JULY 31

-Catholic Daughters to receive Holy Communion in a body at the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

-Blood Drive, 8:45am–12:30pm, SHCS Gym Parking Lot

-Covered dish supper, Family Center after Spanish Mass.

MONDAY, AUGUST 1

-Rosary & evening prayer, 5:30 p.m. in church.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2

-Quilting Circle, 9:00 a.m., KC Hall of Fame Room.

-K.C. General meeting, 7:30 p.m., KC Hall.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3

-Divine Mercy Study/Prayers, 7:30 p.m., Church Cry Rm.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4

-First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins 6:00 pm in church. The intention this month is for *troubled families and for rain.*

-Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration, 7:00 pm in church.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5

-First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament ends with Benediction at 6:00 p.m. in church.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

-Serra Club Mass for Vocations, 8:30 a.m., Moravia.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

-**St. Joseph Church Picnic, Yoakum Community Center.**

-**St. Anthony Shrimporee, Palacios Recreation Center.** 8:30 a.m. Mass at town amphitheater.

-**Sts. Peter & Paul Church Country Festival, Frelsburg.** Mass at 8:45am.

Among our sick: Edna Key, Frank Fishar, Helen M. Appelt, Faith Del Castillo, Michael Gerdes, Renae Ross, Hubert & Mary Grahmann, Odessa, Doug & Richard Blumberg, Danielle Grady, Rose Thumann, Dr. Michael Moore, Bill Gohlke, Sterlin Ritchie, Brenda Grahmann, Ed Aulick, Ricky Skelton, Larry Appelt, Victor Pavliska, Derrick Berger, Anita Bohuslav, Anita Kallus, Daniel Wick, Josephine Janak, Paul Najvar, Betty Hernandez, Gene Drozd, Irene Bordovsky, Steven DeLaRosa, Benita Bordovsky, Soila Sanchez, Ed Kadlecek, Milissa Zamora, Rhonda Janak, Larry Korenek, David Halata, Alex Drozd, LaNora Konvicka, Red Kahanek, nursing home residents & the homebound.

First Thursday Holy Hour for Priestly Vocations – Every first Thursday, the Church commemorates Jesus' institution of the Sacrament of His Body and Blood and of the holy Priesthood which is intrinsically tied to the Eucharist. Join us this Thursday for a special Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration in the church from 7-8 pm for the intention of the priests and seminarians of our diocese of Victoria and to pray for more good and holy priests for the service of our diocese.

Are you traveling and need to locate a Catholic church? Log on to www.MassTimes.org and download the Mass Times app, or call 734-794-2100.

Congratulations to the Christian Mothers on their beautiful celebration of their 100th anniversary last Sunday. Congratulations to those who received their 25 and 50 year membership pins, the honorary members and the new members.

This Sunday at the 10:30 a.m. Mass, we welcome the young adult retreatants and those adults and young adults who helped put on the retreat this weekend. Let us keep praying for our young adults in the church that they will continue to live their faith and grow in the faith.

Religious Education (CCD) -- Office 798-3124

Angela McConnell, Coordinator

Aug. 2&4: Diocese of Victoria Pastoral Institute courses for religion teachers & catechists offered at Sacred Heart Jr. High Library – *Sacraments*, 6:00-9:00 pm.

Registration: Watch the mail for your registration forms. The first CCD class starts with Mass at 6:15 p.m. on Sept. 7th. Parents should attend.

Help needed: We are still in need of a 3rd grade teacher & a married couple to lead the 12th grade program.

Important dates for CCD volunteers–teachers & aides-

August 28: Mandatory New Mass Prayers Training with Fr. Tommy, 1:00-6:00 p.m., Youth House.

August 31: All Volunteers Dinner/Social & Commissioning Ceremony, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Youth House.

**Sacred Heart Catholic School News
Office 798-4251**

August 1: School Advisory Council meeting, 6:00 p.m. in the Teachers' workroom.

August 2: Freshmen Orientation, 7:00 p.m., Cafeteria.

August 4: 5th Grade Orientation, 7:00 p.m., Cafeteria. *The students and their parents are encouraged to attend.*

August 17: Booster Club Hot Dog Supper, 7:00 p.m., Family Center. All athletes in 6th-12th Grade and their parents are cordially invited to attend.

WANTED-USED TENNIS BALLS: We are in need of used tennis balls. Please drop them off at the rectory or the school. *Thank You!!*

Mass & Healing Prayer by Fr. Phi Nguyen on Sunday, Aug. 6 at 10:00 a.m., Our Lady of Lourdes, Victoria. If you have been touched or moved by this ministry and would like to share with Fr. Phi, please contact Sr. Louise Marie Jones at iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com.

Amor Meus Spirituality Center invites you to a Taizé Prayer Experience on August 30, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Incarnate Word Convent Auditorium, 1101 N.E. Water Street, Victoria. Taizé prayer service held in a candle-light atmosphere consists of music, song, chant, scriptural reading, meditation and prayers of intercession. For information call 361-575-7111. Mark your calendar for Amor Meus Retreat on September 17, 2011.

Safe Environment Training - All school & church volunteers, including chaperones for field trips, clergy and employees in the Diocese of Victoria are required to attend the Safe Environment Training. A Safe Environment training session will be held in the Sacred Heart Family Center on Monday, August 22 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Please call Donna Shimek at 361-798-4501 and leave a message if you will be attending. An online background check will also need to be completed on

www.victoriadiocese.org.



Parish Movie Night Coming Soon! – August 10.

The Parish Youth Group is sponsoring a “Back to School” movie night for all the parishioners of the parish on Wednesday, August 10 in the Family Center. Admission and popcorn are FREE! Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and the movie will begin at 6:30 p.m. Other movie concessions will be sold to benefit our parish youth group, as well as other items such as our various T-shirts for evangelization. The featured film will be the 1966 movie “*The Trouble with Angels*” starring Rosalind Russell and Hayley Mills. This movie is in color and is appropriate and fun for all age groups! Come one and all!

Altar Server NEWS: There will be a mandatory meeting of parents of all new and current altar servers on Sunday, August 21 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the church with Fr. Tommy. Only one parent of each server needs to attend the meeting. The server need not attend. The expectations and responsibilities of the altar servers will be outlined for the parents. Parental commitment and involvement is essential to the success of our parish altar server program.

Pastoral Institute Short-Term Classes – there are just a few more opportunities this summer for catechists, Catholic school religion teachers and others to take any of the Short-Term classes. For information or to register, call 573-0828 or email mgutierrez@victoriadiocese.org.

Aug. 1&2: *Intro to the Learner*, 5:30-8:30 pm, Immaculate Conception, Goliad.

Aug. 2&4: *Sacraments*, 6-9pm, Sacred Heart, H'ville.

Aug. 9: *Methodology 1-2 & 3-4*, 6:30-8:30pm, Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner.

Aug. 9&11: *Sacraments*, 6-9pm, Chancery, Victoria.

Aug. 10: *Methodology 5-6 & 7-8*, 6:30-8:30pm, Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner.

Aug. 10&17: *Intro to the Scriptures*, 6-9pm, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Bay City.

Rediscover your marriage – Retrouvaille, which means *rediscovery*, is for couples in struggling and troubled marriages. The program offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. Retrouvaille is not a spiritual retreat, not a sensitivity group, not a seminar, not a social gathering. For confidential information or to register for the August 19-21 program at the Spiritual Renewal Center in Victoria, call 361-580-2770 or email jbvjov@sbcglobal.net, or visit the website at www.Retrouvaille.org.

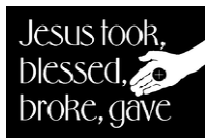


18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

If your parish participated in the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) program Operation Rice Bowl back in Lent, you'll recall that one of the weeks

highlighted their work in Indonesia. Farmers in one of the poorest provinces of the country, Flores Island, often had a difficult time growing enough crops to feed their families though the year. CRS helped to educate farmers about drought-resistant crops, organic fertilizers, and other ways to improve their harvests. While the farmers of Flores Island still struggle, their lives are much better thanks to the actions of CRS that educate farmers in Indonesia about new methods that will improve crop yields. Coaxing a little more food each year from the tired land is essential to providing for the population of this largely non-Christian country.

The miracle of the loaves and fishes is one of the most familiar to us, since it appears in all four Gospels. Matthew's version follows the tradition in which the eucharistic actions of Jesus - took, blessed, broke, gave - are presented in this miracle story as well. In a deserted place near the Sea of Galilee all are fed in a wondrous abundance in the same way that all are nourished in the Eucharist we share every weekend.



The work of Catholic Relief Services in feeding the hungry flows directly from the Eucharist we partake of at Mass. The sacrament of Christ's body and blood nourishes us for our work on earth to feed the hungry, free the oppressed, heal the sick, and proclaim the good news. Without the Eucharist, our actions would be no more than good deeds, bereft of their spiritual benefits. But without the work of charity that flows from the Eucharist, our Communion would be hollow, because we would have forfeited the bond of love that unites us in Christ. Sharing the Eucharist and our loving response in good works go hand in hand to make us Christians.

2011 Liturgical Publications Inc

XXIV Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry, Saturday, September 24, Holy Family Church, Victoria.

This year's conference will have 37 workshops from which to choose. The Most Rev. Richard J. Malone from the Diocese of Portland, Maine will give the keynote address. This conference is for all adult Catholics. Early registration will be held August 1-15. Online registration is available. For information, contact Christella Alvarez at calvarez@victoriadiocese.org or call 361-573-0828 ext. 2227 or 361-827-7172. (All clergy are invited to attend this conference free of charge.)

God's Embrace Renewal Centers' three-year program presented by Michael Fonseca begins August 20 at St. Robert Parish Hall in El Campo. For more information on this program, please contact Sandy Reese at 979-541-6881.



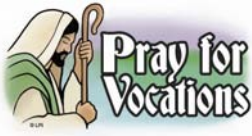
PRAYER FOR RAIN – Heavenly Father, we believe that it is You who created our world with all of its beauty and life. We believe that it is You who put into place the systems of nature that sustain, nurture and renew this work of Your hands. We believe that it is You who hears Your children when they call upon You. Hear, then this prayer which comes from a heart filled with confidence and trust. Grant to us and to all Who seek it, the gift of a bountiful rain. Water our lands so that they may once again spring to life and reflect the beauty of your creation. Fill our lakes and rivers with sufficient rain so that they may continue to provide life giving and refreshing water to all who depend upon it for their livelihood and well being. Please do not let many more days pass without sending us this most needed blessing of rain. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Son, who lives, and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. Amen.

The Diocese Library & Media Center has a variety of books and videos for the summertime. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Call 573-0828 or visit online at www.victoriadiocese.org. New books available at the Diocese Library: "Catholic Update Guide to Confession," "Catholic Update Guide to the Mass," "Understanding the Mass – 100 Questions/100 Answers," "A Time to Plant: Life Lessons in Work, Prayer, and Dirt," "Light of the World: The Pope, the Church, and the Signs of the Times," and "Principles Ministry: A Guidebook for Catholic Church Leaders."

Engaged Encounter weekends in 2011 will be held September 9-11 & November 11-13. The 2012 dates are February 17-19, April 27-29, June 29-July 1, September 7-9, and November 16-18. For a brochure with the 2012 dates, contact Regina at janakr@victoriadiocese.org. It is strongly recommended that couples attend the Engaged Encounter weekend 4-6 weeks prior to their wedding date.

Attention Texas A&M incoming Freshman and transfer students: St. Mary's Catholic Center at Texas A&M University, College Station invites each incoming freshman and transfer students to one of the two 2011 Welcome Weekend Retreats: Tuesday, August 23 – Wednesday, August 24; or, Friday, August 26 – Saturday, August 27. Welcome Weekend is a great way to start college life, learn about the dynamic Catholic presence at TAMU, and make new friends. For more information or to register, call 979-846-5717 or visit www.aggiecatholic.org/welcomeweekend.

Answers to Activities on the back side of this page:
Bible Treasure Hunt: 1) coins; 2) gold; gold; 3) treasure; 4) pearls; 5) silver; 6) jewels.
And God said, "It is good.": Day 1) LIGHT; Day 2) SKY; Day 3) EARTH; Day 4) STARS; Day 5) BIRDS; Day 6) HUMANS; Day 7) RESTED.



O Jesus, Good and Gentle Shepherd, grant that the men and women from our community may have the grace and the courage to

hear and answer Your call to the priesthood and religious life. Give them the wisdom to realize that life is a gift. Let them realize their life is part of Your plan. Call forth those You have chosen to spread the Gospel message, and help them to freely respond to a life of service in the Church. May the parents and families of our parish, support and encourage our young men and women to search for, follow and answer the call of God in their lives. Amen.

AREA EVENTS

Saturday, August 6:

14th Annual Golf Scramble. For more information or to register, contact Isidro Castanon at 361-972-6006.

Annual St. Joseph Alumni Reunion, Yoakum. Mass at 5:00 p.m. followed by Reception and Dinner at St. Joseph Family Center.

Sunday, August 7:

St. Joseph Church Picnic, Yoakum Community Center. Stew & Sausage Dinner 10:30 a.m. Auction, cake walk, country store, horseshoe tournament, pantry wheel, raffle, kiddy games & more.

St. Anthony Shrimporee, Palacios Recreation Center. 8:30 a.m. Mass at town amphitheater. BBQ Brisket, Chicken or Fried Fish & Boiled Shrimp Dinner 10:30 a.m. Booths, games, music & more. *Fun for all ages!*

Sts. Peter & Paul Church Country Festival, Frelsburg. Mass 8:45am. Fried Fish Dinner 11am. Drive thru line available. Auction, bingo, cake walk, country store, raffle, religious articles, & more. Music during the day by Douglas Polasek. Free Dance 4:00-8:00 pm by The Red Ravens. *Come join us for a good old-fashioned time!*

Sunday, August 14:

St. Michael Church Harvest Feast, Veteran's Memorial Park, Weimar. Fried Chicken & Stew Dinner 11am. Drive thru line available at St. Michael Family Center only. Auction, bingo, cake walk, country store, raffle, putt-putt golf, train ride & more! Free dance. Czechaholics 11am-3pm, The Red Ravens 3-7pm, Southbound 955 7-11pm. Softball Tournament Saturday & Sunday.

SACRED HEART CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND –

In memory of Alice Kocian: R. & Jeanette Chudej-\$15.

In memory of Henry G. Timm, Jr.: William & Charlene Bradbury-\$10; Robert & Leona Steffek-\$25; Martin & Karen Steffek-\$10; Robert & Barbara Grahmann-\$15. **In honor of Brother Nick Grahmann's 60th Anniversary:** Danny & Beverly Svoboda-\$60. **In**

SACRED HEART SCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUND –

In honor of Jerry & Margaret Kallus' 50th Anniversary: Harold & Mary Bonorden-\$25.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUND –

In memory of Grace Rother & Richard Klmitchek, Sr.: Hallettsville Livestock Commission-\$40.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL OPERATING FUND –

In memory of Charles Hrcir: Rosemary Hermes-\$10. **In memory of Henry G. Timm, Jr.:** Robert & Sharon Timm-\$20; Daniel & Dorothy Rother-\$10. **In memory of Marvin Brown:** A.J. & Jo Kutac-\$25. **In memory of Cleo Muras:** Larry & Agnes Greer & sons-\$10. **In memory of Richard Klmitchek, Sr.:** Ezzell School Board of Trustees-\$35. **In memory of Alois Leopold, Annie Leopold, John D. Henneke, Viola Grahmann, Henrietta Pesek, Hubert & Ethel Bludau, & Jimmy Sanchez:** R. John & Rose Henneke-\$350.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL LIBRARY FUND –

In memory of Leona Najvar: Mr. & Mrs. Wilbert Etzler-\$10

SACRED HEART CHURCH MUSIC FUND – In

memory of Charles Hrcir: Bob Kubena-\$40

Bible Treasure Hunt for Kids

Look up these Bible verses and write the missing words on the blank lines. Answers are on the back of this page.

- 1.) **Luke 12:6.** Are not five sparrows sold for two small _____? Yet not one of them has escaped the notice of God.
- 2.) **Matthew 23:17.** Blind fools, which is greater, the _____, or the temple that made the _____ sacred?
- 3.) **2 Corinthians 4:7.** We hold this _____ in earthen vessels, that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us.
- 4.) **Proverbs 31:10.** When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond _____.
- 5.) **Genesis 37:28.** They sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of _____.
- 6.) **Isaiah 61:10.** [The Lord] clothed me with a robe of salvation...Like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her _____.

And God said, "It is good." At the very beginning of the Bible, we read the story of Creation. Arrange the letters below in the proper order to see what God created on each day of Creation. See Genesis 1:1—2:3. Answers are on the back of this page.

Day 1: Gn 1:3 – T H G L I _____

Day 2: Gn 1:8 – K S Y _____

Day 3: Gn 1:10 – T A R H E _____

Day 4: Gn 1:16 – T S R A S _____

Day 5: Gn 1:21 – R S I D B _____

Day 6: Gn 1:26 – H N S M A U _____

Day 7: Gn 2:3 – D R S T E E _____

Morning Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for this new morning. Please be with me today in everything I do. Bless my friends and me and keep us from getting into trouble. If someone else needs help from me today, give me the courage and strength to do what I can. In all that I do, help me to do my very best for Your sake. Amen.

The Word of God This Week

Set time aside each day this week with other members of your household, with other members of your parish or alone to listen to and reflect on the living Word of God. Use these passages from the Lectionary that are assigned for Liturgy this week. Reflect on how the Lord is inviting you to a deeper union with him.

TODAY

Isaiah 55:1–3
Romans 8:35, 37–39
Matthew 14:13–21

MONDAY

Matthew 14:22–36
"Take heart, it is I."

TUESDAY*

Matthew 15:1–2, 10–14
"... it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person ..."

WEDNESDAY

Matthew 15:21–28
"Woman, great is your faith!"

THURSDAY

Matthew 16:13–23
"... who do you say that I am?"

FRIDAY

Matthew 16:24–28
"... those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

SATURDAY

Matthew 17:1–9
"... do not be afraid."

**Alternate readings exist for this day.*

Do Not Be Afraid

A catechist described the catechetical program as being, "All Jesus, all the time." The underlying principle is that if we want to know and love Jesus, we must become familiar with him and with what he did and continues to do through the Church. As we talk about Jesus and share our faith with each other we "talk ourselves" into believing.

The readings from this Sunday focus on what Jesus did, and what he continues to do through the Church. In the reading from Romans, the author asks the compelling question: "Who will separate us from the love of Christ?" His answer is: No one and no thing can separate us from Christ's love as long as we are not afraid to turn to him.

This same message is echoed in the readings from Isaiah and Matthew, God calls us to himself. He asks us not to worry about what we are to eat or drink or if we have money. None of that



is important compared to what God provides us with when we turn to him and to listen to his word and follow Jesus.

The reading epitomizes the words that Pope John Paul II said to us in so many of his talks: Do Not Be Afraid. There is nothing to fear if we are filled with the love of Christ.

The Church interprets the feeding of the multitude in Matthew as a prefiguring of the Eucharistic feast. Today Jesus continues to feed us with not only his words but most especially with his Body and Blood. He is providing for us. Do not be afraid and turn to him.



The Faith of the Church

In the Eucharist, Jesus shares his Body and Blood with us under the form of bread and wine. For this reason, the Mass is a sacred banquet that culminates in our eating and drinking Holy Communion. Through this Communion our union with Christ is strengthened, our spiritual life nourished, moving us away from sin and more powerfully toward God in all we think, say, and do (Cf. *US Catholic Catechism for Adults*, pages 222–223).



Questions of the Week

When we worry about what we are to eat or drink, our focus shifts to our needs and not the needs and concerns of others. What can we do to break our selfish habits and think first about our neighbor?

Adults

Who are the poor and needy in my community, and what assistance can I provide this week to help make sure they are cared for?

Children

How might I share more with others who have less?

Responding to God's Word . . .

During the Prayers of the Faithful, many parishes ask God to watch over those who are hungry and rightly so, because it is ultimately God who will provide for them. But less frequently do the prayers ask God to empower us, his followers, to care for those in need. That seems a missed opportunity.

As this week's reading from Matthew 14 makes clear, God doesn't feed the hungry without our help: Jesus fed the crowd with the five loaves and two fish that they provided him! God does the same each day through the good will of people who live out the works of mercy.

As we pray and reflect on the readings this week, consider what role God may have for us in taking care of those who need our assistance. Perhaps there is something practical we can do, like bringing canned goods to a food pantry or work in the local soup kitchen. Or perhaps we are called to influence our neighbors or our legislators on government policies that affect those in need.

Whatever we do, we do in response to Jesus' statement to his apostles: "They need not go away; you give them something to eat."

SUGGESTIONS

Use one of these suggestions or one of your own to respond to God's Word this week.

In the home. Agree on a sacrifice that each family member can make—such as giving up soda for a week—use that money to buy food for the hungry.

In the workplace or in school. Talk with co-workers or fellow students about the needs of people who don't have enough to eat, and discuss what you could do to help.

In the community. Contact your local Catholic Charities office to see what ongoing projects they have to provide food for the hungry. Find out how you can help.



Meditation Moment

A Christmas edition of *Newsweek* ran this advertisement for victims of a famine in Ethiopia: "Right now giant cargo planes are delivering enough food to feed tens of thousands of hungry people a day. . . . Here's how you can help! Your gift of \$15 is all it takes to feed a hungry child for a month! . . . Please give whatever you can—now!"

For reflection . . .

What is one thing that tends to keep me from helping victims like this?

["PEOPLE WILL SAY AT THE LAST JUDGMENT,] 'WHEN, LORD, DID WE EVER SEE YOU HUNGRY AND FEED YOU?' . . . THE KING WILL REPLY, 'I TELL YOU, WHENEVER YOU DID THIS FOR ONE OF THE LEAST IMPORTANT OF THESE . . . YOU DID IT FOR ME!'"

MATTHEW 25:37, 40

FROM *VISION* BY MARK LINK, SJ

All That I Need

Lord, thank you for giving me all that I need.

Thank you for all those who love and care for me.

Thank you for those who grow and harvest the food, those who make it available to me, and those whose work helps to feed me. Help me to work to feed those who are hungry.

Thank you for those who help me to have warm, safe, and secure shelter.

Thank you for all those who sacrifice their comfort so that I may be comforted. Help me to work to provide shelter for those who are homeless. Help me to be grateful for all of your gifts and to show that gratitude every day in every way.

Amen.

Carry this thought in your heart as a guide for your faith journey this week.

Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

Profile in Faith

Saint Alphonsus Liguori

Saint Alphonsus Liguori (1696–1787) worked as a lawyer before becoming a priest. Although he wrote numerous works on theology and spirituality, he is also remembered for his love and care for the poor, and for founding the Redemptoris order that continues his work. His feast day is August 1.

NIHIL OBSTAT
Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Coerver, Censor Librorum
IMPRIMATUR

† Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, DD, Bishop of Dallas
March 28, 2011

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