

The Homily for Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2021 Year B

One of the lessons we can take from today's readings is the importance of sharing what we have with others. In sharing the meagreness of our resources, be it our love, time, care, or money this somehow becomes more than enough to meet the need.

The example given is that of physical hunger. Not many of us have experienced the pangs of physical hunger, that level of starvation which can darken the mind and force an honest man to become a thief. Our problem is that we have too much food. The inclination to selfishness is strong in all of us, the more we have, the more we want.

There is food enough in the world for the needs of all peoples, but not enough because of peoples' greed.

Our selfishness is rooted in insecurity.

The hungry multitude is still with us, crying out for the basic necessities of life and the sheer size of it all may make us wonder what we have to offer. Like the Apostle Andrew, we ask ourselves, "What is the little that I can give amongst so many?"

The Lord did not dismiss the meagre offerings of the young boy. He will not dismiss ours either.

It is in using our little efforts that God chooses to produce His greatest miracles. Our little contributions may seem insignificant, but if multiplied amongst a parish or a caring community, it can become a small miracle.

That little impetus to share, be it of myself or what I have, is the seedbed of the miracle. Jesus took those loaves and gave thanks to His Father.

Thankfulness for what we have got can be a good beginning. Every day that we live in this world is a miracle of God's divine providence, which is much greater than the feeding of the multitude, but because it happens with such regularity, we do not give it any thought.

It is only when we are called upon to share or to give of what we have, that the many blessings and benefits that come our way cease to be taken for granted.