

Reflection for Friday of 2nd Week of Easter 2020

The feast of St Erkenwald and Mellitus, bishops of London.

Clearly Gamaliel was right that if the Apostles were from God there was nothing man could do to stop them preaching and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. Thousands of Saints like Erkenwald and Mellitus bear testimony to the fact. The really comforting thought about the feeding of the 5,000 is that the more you share the gifts of God the more you have to share. Be charitable and you will become even more charitable. Share kindness and you become kinder. Share goodness and you will have even more goodness to share. The list goes on. Despite the negative effects of the pandemic which should not be ignored or downplayed, the goodness and love that is being distributed, like the bread among the 5,000, is leading to ever greater acts of goodness. This Good News needs to be heralded more loudly; it far outweighs the bad.

Story: An old woman died and was taken to the Judgment Seat by the angels. While examining her records, however, the Judge could not find a single act of charity performed by her except for a carrot she had once given to a starving beggar. Such, however, is the power of a single deed of love that it was decreed that she be taken up to heaven on the strength of that carrot. The carrot was brought to court and given her. The moment she caught hold of it, it began to rise as if pulled by some invisible string, lifting her up toward the sky.

A beggar appeared. He clutched the hem of her garment and was lifted with her; a third person caught hold of the beggar's foot and was lifted too. Soon there was a long line of people being lifted up to heaven by that carrot. And, strange as it may seem, the woman did not feel the weight of all those people who held onto her; in fact, since she was looking heavenward, she did not see them.

Higher and higher they rose until they were almost near the heavenly gates. That is when the woman looked back to catch a last glimpse of the earth and saw this whole train of people behind her.

She was indignant! She gave an imperious wave of her hand and shouted, *"Off! Off, all of you! **This carrot is mine!**"*

In making her imperious gesture, she let go of the carrot for a moment – and down she fell with the entire train.

Anthony de Mello, *Taking Flight*,

There is only one cause for every evil on earth: *"This belongs to me!"*

And finally: "I hope you didn't take it personally, Reverend," an embarrassed woman said after a church service, "when my husband walked out during your sermon."

"I did find it rather disconcerting," the preacher replied.

"It's not a reflection on you," insisted the church goer.

"Ralph has been walking in his sleep since childhood."