

Homily 18th Sunday A 2020

In Romans 8, St Paul is adamant that nothing, absolutely nothing can come between us and the love of Christ as he writes: *“neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus.”* Jesus shows us a key element of that love in the feeding of the 5,000. He has been teaching the people through story and wisdom, probably healed a few people of different health issues but he is also aware that they have not eaten and are hungry. His awareness leads to action which results in everyone being fed. Hilaire Belloc described this kind of love as **courtesy**, so, let’s listen to him:

Of Courtesy, it is much less
than Courage of Heart or Holiness,
yet in my Walks it seems to me
that the Grace of God is in Courtesy.

On Monks I did in Storrington fall,
they took me straight into their Hall;
I saw Three Pictures on a wall,
and Courtesy was in them all.

The first the Annunciation;
the second the Visitation;
the third the Consolation,
of God that was Our Lady’s Son.

The first was of St. Gabriel;
on Wings a-flame from Heaven he fell;
and as he went upon one knee
he shone with Heavenly Courtesy.

Our Lady out of Nazareth rode –
it was Her month of heavy load;
yet was her face both great and kind,
for Courtesy was in Her Mind.

The third it was our Little Lord,
whom all the Kings in arms adored;
he was so small you could not see
his large intent of Courtesy.

Our Lord, that was Our Lady’s Son,
go bless you, People, one by one;
my Rhyme is written, my work is done.

Courtesy is defined as excellent and generous politeness, kindness and consideration filled with respect. It includes grace, good-manners, gallantry, graciousness, and affability. All of which are reflected in Jesus who in turn is a reflection of the Father. We love a **courteous** God and are called to be **courteous** people in return, if we wish to reflect this love. Why the people had their fill at this special feast was not just the

food but the courtesy with which Jesus shared the bread and the fish. The same courtesy we experience in receiving the Eucharist.

Mahatma Gandhi *When restraint and courtesy are added to strength, the latter becomes irresistible.*

Saint Basil: *A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.*

Maybe it was not bread that was in the baskets after the meal with Jesus but **love, an abundance of love!!!**

A little courtesy would help . . .

A grandmother telephoned St Joseph's Hospital and timidly asked: *"Is it possible to speak to someone who can tell me how a patient is doing?"*

Operator: *"I'll be glad to help, dear. What's the patient's name and room number?"*

Grandmother tremulously: *"Norma Findlay, Room 302."*

Operator: *"Let me place you on hold while I check with her nurse."*

After a few minutes, operator: *"Oh, good news. Her nurse has told me that Norma is doing very well. Her blood pressure is fine; her blood work just came back as normal. And her doctor has scheduled her to be discharged on Tuesday."*

Grandmother: *"Thank you. That's wonderful. I was so worried! God bless you for the good news."*

Operator: *"You're more than welcome. Is Norma your daughter?"*

Grandmother: *"No, I'm Norma Findlay in Room 302. **No one tells me anything.**"*