

Cycle B 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Sunday July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Every third year during the summer time we get to spend time with John Chapter 6, which is also known as the Eucharistic Chapter. There is that word **Eucharist**. What does this word mean? **Eucharist** in Greek simply means thanksgiving. At every Mass we give thanks to God, therefore we can rightly say that the Mass is **Eucharist**, an act of thanksgiving to God.

The Apostle John gives us some key details today that point us to the Mass that we celebrate every day. The large crowd that followed Jesus was captivated by who Jesus is. He is so much more than the religious leaders and itinerate preachers of the day. Jesus because of Who He is, gathered people together. We here are gathered together for Mass.

Then we hear that Jesus sat down with His disciples. In the ancient world the teacher would sit down and begin to teach. Disciples would sit at the feet of their Master. The word disciple means learner. You and I are learners at the feet of the Master, who is Jesus. At Mass we sit down and listen to the words of Scripture. Jesus is the Word, therefore He is teaching us, His learners. So, we have the first part of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Word.

John now begins to take us to the heart of what Jesus does for us. Andrew brings the boy with the five barley loaves and two fish to Jesus, with the question, **“What good are these for so many.”** Here Jesus begins to act. 3 key words point us to Jesus plan. **Took**; Jesus took the loaves and gave thanks. The priest receives the small amount of bread and wine from the people. Jesus gave **thanks**. The priest with the bread and wine gives **thanks** to God. Jesus **distributed**. At Mass we distribute Holy Communion, the Body and Blood of Christ.

However, Jesus is not finished yet. We hear, **“they had had their fill.”** This shows us that **only God** can satisfy the human heart. The things of this world can never satisfy us. Only Christ in the Holy Eucharist can satisfy the longings of our hearts. Jesus instructs, **“Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted.”** This calls to mind how we bring the remaining Eucharist to the Tabernacle, so that we can have Eucharist to bring to the sick, and for private adoration.

The celebration of Mass is an act of Thanksgiving to God which is the Eucharist. John Chapter six is the Eucharistic Chapter that gives us a foundation for understanding the Mass. During this time of summer it would be good for each of us to go and read Chapter 6 of John’s Gospel so that we can see how much **Jesus** fully gives Himself for us.