

The Work of the People

The Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In the first reading for this Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah's words stem from the time of the Babylonian Exile, a time of distress and anguish for God's people, having lost Temple and homeland. The prophets saw this as punishment for the people's infidelity. Yet it is here in an alien land that God offers such an insistent invitation: "come," "listen," and "heed." In other words, repent and return to the Lord. Drink abundantly of God's wisdom and teaching, for in it, you will find life. God will renew his covenant and the promises he made to David their king. All is not lost.

In the Letter to the Romans, we see that Paul is all too familiar with opposition and suffering in his life, especially from those who did not receive his message about Jesus Christ. No matter how great the difficulties experienced, no matter how overwhelming the suffering, Paul is convinced that the love of Christ Jesus remains with us. Nothing, absolutely nothing, can separate us from that love.

In the Gospel, Jesus's compassion for the hungry and sick crowd mirrors that of God for his people as we heard in today's First Reading. With the meager resources at hand, five loaves and two fish, and prayer, Jesus provides food in abundance for the multitude. Matthew's description of the event echoes his account of the Last Supper and our own celebration of the Eucharist.

The reflection for this Sunday is from a work called *Go In Peace* by St. John Paul II. John Paul II, born Karol Jozef Wojtyla in 1920, was elected pope in 1978 and exercised his ministry with a tireless missionary spirit. He died in 2005 and was canonized in 2014.

"The crowds of starving people—children, women, the elderly, immigrants, refugees, the unemployed—raise their cry of suffering. They implore us, hoping to be heard. How can we not open our ears and our hearts and start to make available those loaves and fishes that God has put into our hands?"

If each one of us contributes, we can all do something for them. Of course, this will require sacrifice, which calls for a deep inner conversion. Certainly, it will involve changing our exaggerated consumerist behavior, combating hedonism, and resisting attitudes of indifference and the tendency to disregard our personal responsibilities.

With more than 800 million people suffering from malnutrition, it is often difficult to find immediate solutions for improving these tragic situations. We must nevertheless seek them together so that we will no longer have, side by side, the starving and the wealthy, the very poor and the very rich, those who lack the necessary means and others who lavishly waste them. Such contrasts between poverty and wealth are intolerable for humanity.

It is from the love of God that Christians learn to help the needy and to share with them their own material and spiritual goods. Such concern not only provides those experiencing hardship with material help, but also represents an opportunity for the spiritual growth of the giver

For each of us, moderation and simplicity ought to become the criteria of our daily lives. The quantity of goods consumed by a tiny fraction of the world population produces a demand greater than available resources. A reduction of this demand constitutes a first step in alleviating poverty, provided that it is accompanied by effective measures to guarantee a fair distribution of the world's wealth

It is necessary once more to state the characteristic principle of Christian social doctrine: the goods of this world are originally meant for all. The right to private property is valid and necessary, but it does not nullify the value of this principle.

As far as the Church is concerned, the social message of the Gospel must not be considered a theory, but above all else a basis and a motivation for action."

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jer. 28:1-17/Mt. 14:22-36
 Tuesday: Jer. 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22/Mt. 14:22-36 or
 Mt. 15:1-2, 10-14
 Wednesday: Jer. 31:1-7/Mt. 15:21-28
 Thursday: Dn. 7:9-10, 13-14/2 Pt. 1:16-19/Mt. 17:1-9
 Friday: Na. 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7/Mt. 16:24-28
 Saturday: Hb. 1:12; 2:4/Mt. 17:14-20
 Sunday: 1 Kgs. 19:9a, 11-13a/Rom 9:1-5/Mt. 14:22-33

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Luke Kennerknecht who will receive his First Communion at the 9:30 Mass Sunday, August, 2.

*"Lord,
 show me how I can point people
 to you today."*

WORSHIP

Monday, August 3
 8:00 am + John Auer
 Tuesday, August 4
 8:00 am + Marie Gruner (M/M Nelson Allen)
 Wednesday, August 5
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Thursday, August 6
 8:00 am + Robert Wronko (Joan Rembielak)
 Friday, August 7
 8:00 am + Yvonne Gibbons (Kathleen Lipkovich)
 Saturday, August 8
 4:30 pm + Jeff Melvin (Josie Osiecki)
 Sunday, August 9
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Living & Deceased Parishioners
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 Larry Brown (M/M Gerard Adamczyk)

*“Jesus
 may I never be separated from your love!”*

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

The apostles were probably being practical when they asked Jesus to “dismiss the crowds” so they could go and buy food. Jesus knew there is always enough when we place our trust in the Father, even with 5 loaves and 2 fish. Trust is the bridge to miracles.

NOTICE

Due to Covid-19 virus pandemic St. Anthony of Padua’s 2020 annual craft fair will not be held this year.
 We anticipate this event will be held in 2021. More information will follow next summer.

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, August 4
 After Mass - St. Anthony’s Novena
 Saturday, August 8
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession (In the Daily Mass Chapel)
 Please observe healthy social distancing
 Sunday, August 9
 Before Mass - Confession AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 After Mass - Confession AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 (In the Daily Mass Chapel)

ST. BONIFACE SUMMER RAFFLE

Sunday, August 9th
 Basket Raffle with items on display
 from 10 am - 1 pm in the Coleman Center
 Cash prizes \$1000, \$250, \$100 & \$50
 Tithing to local Food Pantry
 and Sunshine Group of Erie
 Social distancing and masks required
 in the Coleman Center
 Call 814 825-4238 for more information

NOTE: WEARING A FACE MASK IS REQUIRED FOR THE TIME YOU ARE IN THE CHURCH BUILDING.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

THANK YOU to all who donated to the roof repair fund. About 95% of the repairs have been made and the roof should be good now for some years to come. The life expectancy of the slate on the church roof is 100 years and, since the church is 110 years old, we can expect to have to replace individual pieces of slate on a regular basis. The remainder of the roof work will be done in the fall when the temperatures cool. Please continue to support the ongoing maintenance of the buildings if you are able.

STEWARDSHIP - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION

Offertory	\$390.00
Candles	3.00
Needy	<u>200.00</u>
TOTAL	\$593.00
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$5,365 Paid: \$4,965	

STEWARDSHIP - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

Offertory	\$749.00
Maintenance	371.00
Candles	17.00
National Needs	20.00
Roof Donation	50.00
CSA	320.00
Latin Mass	<u>358.00</u>
TOTAL	\$1,885.00
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$25,600 Paid: \$22,370	

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
