

April 12, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

MORE THAN THEY COULD EAT

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Today's Gospel

Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee. A large crowd followed him, because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. The Jewish feast of Passover was near. When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" He said this to test him, because he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred days' wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people recline." Now there was a great deal of grass in that place. So the men reclined, about five thousand in number. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted. When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted." So they collected them, and filled twelve wicker baskets with

fragments from the five barley loaves that had been more than they could eat. When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, “This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world.” Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone.

JOHN 6:1-15

Reflection

This “feeding” miracle is found in all four Gospels. It recalls the Israelites being fed with manna during their exodus sojourn in the desert, as they moved from slavery to freedom, led by God through Moses. The barley loaves indicate the food of the poor and there isn’t much of that available. The mention of “a great deal of grass in that place” points to springtime, the time of Passover. Another Exodus image. Jesus takes what food they have, offers thanks for it (a Eucharistic reminder) and distributes the food. Please note that the crowd had “more than they could eat.” This abundance of God and activity of the Messiah is available through Jesus.



Basket with Fresh Swiss Buns on Marble Table
Photo by Karolina Grabowska

For Pondering

- In what ways have you been abundantly fed by our Creator? Perhaps the “food”/nourishment has been in the form of the kindness of others and/or the beauty of creation.
 - How do you partner with God to “feed” your neighborhood/ workplace/ school?
 - Who is/ where is the “boy who had five barley loaves and two fish” in your life? When have you been that “boy?”
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For Prayer

*O God,
let me experience the miracles of the world I witness
– ever mindful and always grateful of all that you have made and offer us.
Amen.*

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