

**ECHOING GOD’S WORD  
IN THE  
CATHOLIC FAITH COMMUNITY  
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
July 28, 2024**

**SCRIPTURES:**

<b>2 Kings 4:42-44</b>	Give it to the people and let them eat.
<b>Ephesians 4:1-6</b>	There is one body and one spirit.
<b>John 6:1-15</b>	There is a boy here with five barley loaves and two fish.
<b>Psalms 145</b>	You open your hand to feed us, Lord.

**SCRIPTURE BACKGROUND:**

*Read the Scriptures carefully in your group, beginning with the Gospel. Take a few minutes in silence to hear the Lord speaking to the heart. Remember that the word of God in the Bible is primarily addressed to the Church community. What does God want the community to hear today?*

**2 Kings:**

Elisha asked that the barley loaves and the two fish be given to the people to eat. There were over 100 people. They had so much left over: “according to the Word of the Lord.”

**Ephesians:**

Paul tells the Ephesians in his letter that there is enough for them to eat. In fact, that the leftovers, when they were gathered up, filled even 12 baskets. From this sign, given to the people, they knew that there was one body and one Spirit given to them. The people knew that there was one hope and one calling: baptism given to all of them.

**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Where do we get what we have to eat? What about food for the body? What about food for the soul? Does it not all come from God? Have we been filled with what God has given us?
2. What do we have to share with others around us? What do we have to give to others, such as family and neighbors? Do we make it clear that what we give has been given to us by God in the first place?
3. Do we realize that Jesus is the prophet who had to come into our world? That Jesus is the very Son of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity? Do we worship Jesus Christ even as we eat the food that God has given us? Is the Eucharist our daily bread and our daily drink?

## **PRAYER**

Blessed the Lord, O my Soul!  
Blessed be the Name of the Lord!  
Blest is the family God has given us.

## **CATHOLIC DOCTRINE**

How often do we hesitate to use the word DOGMA when we talk about our faith? As if DOGMA were an evil word? DOGMA just means Catholic doctrine!

We proclaim our faith at Mass when we speak the Creed: The Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed.

Whenever I celebrate a baptism for a child, I always tell the assembly that it is not just magic words when we say the creed or answer AMEN after each question: Do you believe in God, the Father? Do you believe in God, the Son? Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? Do you believe in the "one, holy, and apostolic Church? Do we realize that the Church we profess is the one, universal Church founded by Jesus Christ to continue his work on earth after ascension?

That is our faith – the faith we must impart to the child being baptized. Not just magic words!

@2017 by Rev. Clement D. Thibodeau. All rights reserved. Used with permission of the author.