



PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

JULY 25, 2021

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (6, 1-15):



"Then Jesus went to the other shore of the Lake of Galilee, near Tiberias. A huge crowd followed him, because of the miraculous signs that they saw him perform on the sick. Jesus went up to the mountain and sat there with his disciples. Passover, the feast of the Jews, was approaching. So Jesus raised his eyes and, seeing the large crowd that came to him, said to Philip: "Where shall we go to

buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked him to put him to the test, because he knew well what he was going to do. Felipe replied: "Two hundred silver coins would not be enough to give each one a piece." Another disciple, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said: "Here is a boy who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what is this for so many people?" Jesus said to them, "Make the people sit down." There was much grass in that place, and the men, about five thousand in number, sat down. So Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were seated. He did the same with the fish, and they all received as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, Jesus said to his disciples: "Gather up the pieces that are left over so that nothing is lost." They gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with the pieces that had not been eaten: they were the leftovers of the five barley loaves. When they saw this sign that Jesus had done, the men said: "This is without a doubt the Prophet who was to come to the world." Jesus realized that they were going to take him by force to proclaim him king, and again he fled to the mountain alone. "

The Word of the Lord.

REFLECTION:

Every time I read or listen to this Gospel, the phrase "Give them something to eat" remains in my heart, a phrase that reminds me of what I lived at home as a child, that is, a simple home with open doors, welcoming and sharing with those who needed it. Reading this Gospel now, as a woman, invites me to recognize and share with you those qualities we try to have as consecrated women that have to start from the deep experience of encountering the Lord and remaining in His Heart, in order to live His attitudes and feelings that make us more human.

I invite you to look at some of these:

- *Jesus realizes the tiredness of the people who were there. He is attentive to the needs of the moment. He cares for them and does what is necessary to satisfy their needs: tiredness and hunger. As women, being more sensitive, we are always attentive and ready to help to find a solution, always looking for the best response.*
- *The welcome of Jesus is to offer food. Our welcome leads us to make the other feel unique, unique in our life and to give them the bread of welcome: appreciation, friendship and encouragement to continue along the way.*
- *The solidarity of Jesus calls us to be in solidarity with others, learning to share what we are and have to alleviate the needs of our world. Above all, we are called to be merciful like our heavenly Father, that is, to know how to let the lives of others into our own hearts.*
- *Jesus invites them to sit in circles, inviting us to live in communion, the community of sisters and wider community with others with whom we relate. Remembering the call of Cor Unum, we are called to form a family of the Heart.*
- *One important characteristic of Jesus is generosity, a quality that Madeine Sophie so desired, which is why she lived open to the action of the Spirit and left us a witness, that we might live generosity in the Society. When she was asked what should characterize us, she spontaneously and quickly answered: generosity.*
- *They collected and filled twelve baskets. When we live in encounter with the Lord, we give him everything we have, so that with it, he can satisfy the needs of our brothers and sisters. It is enough and even more remains to continue sharing the experience of our encounter with the One who loves us so much.*

Jesus needs our help, our five loaves and fishes, to continue alleviating the pain of humanity and although it seems little, everything that is given with love is multiplied. Are we aware of what are the five loaves and two fish that we have to give?

Jesus wants us to always be attentive to the needs that our brothers and sisters face today and, in his name, to be creative, to seek solutions, that we might be active, enterprising, stay in the struggle, that we seek and collaborate in the transformation and construction of a more humane and just world and that we might have full confidence in him. With the little we have to offer, He will do great things, because what is done with love and in his name will always be for the glory of God. And the glory of God means a life worthy of every man and every woman

Remember that this text of the multiplication of the loaves speaks of abundance, which is a characteristic of the great love God Father-Mother has for each of his sons and daughters. Let yourself be enveloped by this love, so that in everything you do, that is your only motivation and what mobilizes your whole person.

Personal reflection:

1. Remember and write: What are the loaves and fishes that Jesus asks of me today, to satisfy the hunger of humanity?
2. At the beginning of the Gospel, it says "many people followed him." Do I feel like I'm in their midst? Or do I stay on the margins?
3. What part of this story touched me the most and why?
4. Who has fed me in my life? Who have I fed with my life?
5. My body and spirit need nourishment. How do I satisfy the hunger of my spirit? What kinds of hunger do I experience in my daily life?

After your personal reflection, freely share one of the questions as a community.

Finish with the "Prayer for Vocations."

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