

Homily of the Loaves and Fishes
Fr. Lavelle 7/26/2009
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary time Cycle B
Loaves + Fishes = Generosity

Did you ever think what would have happened, if the little boy with the loaves and fishes had said no and refused to share his loaves and fishes with Jesus. What would have happened? Now Jesus doesn't need material things to produce a miracle. But the little boy said yes; he shared what he had. He shared and just look at what happened!

Probably the biggest sin in marriages, in families, in homes and with one another is the sin of selfishness, pettiness or self-centeredness.

How does one define and describe the sin of selfishness?

Maybe we could define and paint it this way:

"I'm most important." "I couldn't care less about you." "Me not thee; I not you."

On the other hand, Humility can be defined as: Thinking less often of yourself, and more often of others.

The opposite of selfishness is: goodness, generosity, sensitivity, compassion, forgiveness, patience and silence.

Today, this week, or during the months ahead, you will be asked to share....to share or give something of yourself.

Maybe it will be food or money, or maybe you will be asked to give of your time, your ear, your heart, your hands or yourself. It could be as simple as opening your home to adult children, regardless of their age or number of children.

How do you know that you are selfish? How do you know?

If you find yourself answering "no", "no I can't", "no I won't", "no, I haven't got the time", "sorry", "no, no thanks".....

Or if your "no's" are more frequent than your yes's, consider the possibility that you just might be selfish. Again, if you find yourself with more no's than yes's, you might be selfish.

The little boy shared his loaves and fishes, and look at what happened! Jesus did not give the little boy with the loaves and fishes anything, no reward. But he gave thousands food!

If you share yourself, give of yourself, just think what could happen..... just think what you could or would do for another, or others.

May your vocabulary, your speech, have more yes's, than no's, more generous yes's rather than selfish no's, more positive words than negative words.

*Thanks little boy who shared his loaves and fishes,
Thanks for sharing your food and yourself with others,
Little boy, no one even knows your name,
Help us little boy to say yes more often. Amen*

**The Story of the Loaves and Fishes:
A Mother frets
(Author unknown)**

"I tell you, Rachel, that boy of mine keeps me guessing! I never know where to find him - especially when I need him for a chore. But today, he actually told me where he was going. Jesus, that young carpenter from Nazareth, is out in our countryside somewhere preaching to a crowd, no doubt. My Jacob and some neighbor boys went off to join the others this morning. (You needn't ask me who will be right up front when they reach the place.) I packed a lunch for him to take along - just a few of my little barley loaves and a couple of dried fishes. That's more than he needs, but he always shares what he has. I only worry that he will give it all away. Why, I wouldn't be surprised if he even offers the food to Jesus himself. If so, surely that good man will see that my boys keeps a little for himself. Everyone knows that a growing boy has to eat."



"Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work."

2 Cor. 9:8