

Be a blessing!

The Eucharist we celebrate is a great source of blessing to us. It gives us an opportunity to praise and thank God for his love and mercy on us, to ask him for his mercy and forgiveness, and we present our various intentions to him in faith. It recharges the spiritual blessings God has given us and reminds us that the gifts are meant not only for our good but also for the good of others. The Eucharist reminds us that we are the stewards through which God shares his gifts to others. During the Mass, we are always invited to share the limitless love, compassion, peace, and forgiveness we receive with others, which is one of the great invitations the readings of today invite us to reflect on.

Our first reading today tells us about the multiplication of loaves, a miracle that happened through the intercession of the Prophet Elisha, a prophet of Israel in the reigns of Ahaziah, Joram, Jehu, Joahaz and Jaosh. He was the son of Shaphat and was called by Elijah, and received the double portion of his prophetic spirit. This multiplication of loaves is one of the many miracles attributed to Elisha. No other prophet worked so many miracles as Elisha. Similarly, in the Gospel, Jesus, the prophet of the prophets, performs the miracles of the multiplication of loaves of bread.

Each of the miracles showed that God used the generosity of people at different times to show his mighty deeds to his people. In the first reading, the man from Baal-shalishah brought to the man of God bread from the first fruits and 20 barley loaves and fresh grain, and they were miraculously multiplied. Equally, in the Gospel, we read the part played by Philip and Andrew, and the generosity of the lad who generously gave away five barley loaves and two little fishes, which Jesus multiplied for 5000 men. The disciples and the lad shared in the compassion of Jesus and willingly shared their blessings with others.

We are called to allow ourselves to be used as sources of blessings to others. The gifts we have received (spiritual and material) are meant to be shared with others. God wants to bless others through our gifts. We have to support each other in love as St. Paul tells us in the second reading. Compassion always has to be followed by an action. Compassion without action is mere feeling. Our faith has to show itself on how we become bread for others to be broken and eaten. Faith without good works is dead. (James 2:17). Let us pray that God will help us to use our gifts to serve others and to always be a blessing to others. Amen.