

Our God is Transparent

I am trying to think of the last time that I used a title for the Sunday reflection that I wrote for the Bulletin. It is not uncommon for me to have a scripture verse or a prayer to be included at the start of my reflection. It is very uncommon for me to title my reflection in fact I cannot think of the last time that I did title a reflection that was in the Parish bulletin. But today it just seemed right to provide a title for this reflection. Just like a scripture verse or a prayer that would start the reflection this title gives insight into what will be shared in the reflection to follow

I am not sure about you but for me in choosing a book to read I do read the introduction or forward and I tend to look up reviews. But I do have to admit that the title of the book tends to be the first thing I look at and if it does not look like something I would find interesting then the search for a book to read continues. Of course, sometimes the title of the book has nothing or little to do with what the book is about. I would say that the same can be said for movies. Today I would hope that all would agree after reading the reflection that yes that title of this reflection does have a great deal to do with what is contained in the reflection. Maybe some might say that the title of this reflection truly sums up the message of this Sunday's reflection.

Today on this 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time our first reading is taken from the Second Book of Kings, and it speaks about a man that comes from Baalshalishah bringing Elisha 20 barley loaves. Elisha asks his servant to give these loaves to the people to eat. The servant objects, saying that it is not enough food to feed the people. But the servant does give the 20 loaves to the 100 people to eat and there was food leftover. In our Gospel reading today taken from the Gospel of John we hear of Jesus informing Philip that he intends to feed the vast crowd that had been listening to him. Philip states that even with 200 days wages there would not be enough money to feed the crowd. Andrew comes forward with a boy who has 5 barley loaves and 2 fish. Jesus takes the loaves and fish, feeding the 5,000 with leftovers after all had their fill.

Our First Reading this Sunday taken from the Old Testament is a foreshadowing of this Sunday's Gospel Reading. The multiplication of loaves is seen by many as a foreshadowing of the Eucharistic Miracle upon the Altar. There are a number of places in the Old Testament where there is a foreshadowing of the Eucharistic Miracle upon the Altar. In Genesis 14:18, Melchizedek the King of Salem and priest of the God Most High, brings out bread and wine and blesses Abram. In the Gospel of Matthew 26:26-28 we hear of the Last Supper and the use of bread and wine for the Eucharistic Miracle upon the Altar. Then in Exodus 12:17 we hear of the requirement for God's chosen people to keep a feast of unleavened bread, as a perpetual institution, remembering what God had done for them. In the Gospel of Luke 22:19 we hear Christ say, "*do this in memory of me.*"

The God of the Old Testament and the God of the New Testament is the same God, what is clear and transparent is His desire and love of us. Our God wishes us to walk with Him in this world and the next. In a world where we might think things are not clear and transparent, where people might not always appear straightforward and honest with us, our God is very different. We have a God of the Old Testament and the New Testament that is clear and transparent in His desire for us to be with Him in this world and the next. Yes, we do have free will, and yes, we can choose our path in this world and the next. But we have a loving God that reaches out to us through Sacred Scriptures, the Sacraments, and Divine Revelation to invite us to be with Him in this world and the next.