



# Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

## **Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

July 28, 2024

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

### ***“Food For Those Who Hunger!”***

The First Reading from the Second Book of Kings tells us about the miracle of the multiplication of loaves performed by Elisha. A man from Baal-shalishah brings twenty barley loaves made from the first fruits and fresh grain in the ear to Elisha. He commands his servant to give the food to the people to eat. The servant objects to the command because he questions how twenty barley loaves can feed a hundred people. Elisha insists on giving the loaves, and the people have their fill.

This Sunday from the Gospel of John tells us about the miracle of the multiplication of loaves. A large crowd gathers around Jesus and His disciples. Jesus, sensitive to the needs of the people, asks Philip where they can buy enough food for all of them to eat. Philip remarks that two hundred days' wages for food are insufficient to feed the crowd. Andrew, another disciple and the brother of Simon Peter tells Jesus about a boy who has five barley loaves and two fish. Jesus commanded His disciples to let the people recline, and the large crowd had their fill.

One precise detail about the miracles is about the servant and the boy bringing barley loaves. The two accounts of the multiplication of the loaves are clear enough to understand that God does not multiply the loaves instantly. It is not like a downpour of rain. Instead, there is first the generous deed of the person who offers and brings the food. After this, the food is shared with those who are in need.

The miracles we hear this Sunday may lead us to the theme of the Eucharist. It will be more precise as we hear the succeeding Sunday Gospels. This Sunday, it is evident that the Lord calls us to understand and reflect on how we can make the miracle happen again today. Many people are in dire need of food locally, nationally, and globally. Many have lost jobs and could hardly find ways to make ends meet. As we also notice, the poor are those who hunger for food. They roam around our streets, homeless and abandoned. Through our spirit of generosity, willingness to serve, and selflessly keeping the goods we have to dispose of, all are means to make the miracle happen again. We can join many institutions around our State or serve in the Outreach Ministry of our Churches to make the miracle happen again. Only what it takes is to have an open heart, be generous, and extend a helping hand to feed them with material food and, more so, love and care.

We are called to open ourselves to others as we look up to Jesus' selfless sacrifice. Our call to discipleship is a call to a life-giving service to others, materially and spiritually. Through Jesus' ways and teachings, we form one body in Him, tending to the needs of our brothers and sisters.

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual