

FROM THE DESK OF **Fr. Julius**



Brothers and Sisters in Christ; Grace and peace!

Last week, celebrating the 32nd Anniversary of my Priestly Ordination, I recounted what a humbling experience it has been these past years, participating in the vibrant life of the Church here at St. Joseph the Worker. I do not take your cooperation with me for granted, I consider it a blessing and a privilege to serve you. I encourage everyone to continue to stand by each other to increase this truly Christian community. The words from St. Paul today seem to be a compelling endorsement especially for our parish family, "living with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love." This week's liturgy centers on the opening of John 6, (a departure from St. Mark, whence we will return to on the 22nd Sunday), which will continue over the next several weeks.

The first reading conveys how the early prophet Elisha, by invoking the divine power of God, feeds one hundred men with twenty barley loaves, essentially foreshadowing today's Gospel account of Jesus' miraculous feeding. In the second reading St. Paul implores the early Ephesians, both Jews and Gentiles, to come together in Christian unity, tracing their one baptism, which we find in our Apostles Creed.

Today's miraculous feeding by Jesus of the five thousand, so far from home and hungry, gifts us with a foretaste of the Most Holy Eucharist- a sacrament so magnificent, that the magnitude of our Lord's love impels us towards spreading that greatness. Those who were fed promptly address Jesus with his two Messianic titles: "the Prophet" and "the one who is to come." This miracle assures us that God works marvels through the good will and services of simple people, with simple gifts.

The idea of 'divine multiplication' influences our actions. By committing our humble blessings and talents, God can multiply our small acts of love! You and I can share and work with God in communicating His compassion and generosity, as the early Christians did. Each morning, with prayer, we can ask our Lord to show us ways we can give of ourselves throughout the course of that day, leaving it up to Him to magnify our gifts. We can observe the unselfish efforts at "sharing" right in our parish. The Knights of Columbus and donations to the Good Shepherd are especially noteworthy within our parish and diocese.

In my vacation plans next week for traveling 'home' I ask to be in your prayers, as I keep you all in mine.

A Blessed Sunday