Homily for the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

One of the most common human experiences is the feeling that there is never enough. We hear it all the time: not enough money, not enough time, not enough energy, not enough workers, not enough priests, not enough opportunities. We often look at our lives through the lens of scarcity.

That is exactly what the disciples experienced in today's Gospel. They looked at the enormous crowd and immediately saw a problem. **"This is a deserted place. It is already late. Send the crowds away."** Their solution was practical. Let everyone fend for themselves.

Jesus, however, saw the same crowd with different eyes. He did not first see a problem; He saw people in need. And then He said something that must have sounded impossible: **"Give them some food yourselves."** The disciples protested. **"We have only five loaves and two fish."**

Notice that little word: "**only**." They focused on what they lacked rather than on what they had. How often do we do the same?

"I only have a little time."

"I only have a small income."

"I only have limited talents."

"I am only one person."

Jesus never asks us to begin with what we don't have. He asks us to begin with what we do have.

The miracle did not begin with abundance. It began with a simple offering. Five loaves and two fish were insignificant for thousands of people. But once they were placed into the hands of Jesus, they became more than enough.

This is one of the great spiritual lessons of the Gospel. God does extraordinary things with ordinary gifts that are generously offered.
Think about the saints. Most were not wealthy or powerful. They simply gave Jesus what they had: their time, their talents, their faith, their willingness to say yes. God multiplied their gifts beyond anything they could have imagined.

This miracle also points us directly to the Eucharist. Notice the actions of Jesus. He takes the bread, looks to heaven, blesses it, breaks it, and gives it to the people. Those same actions will be repeated at the Last Supper and are repeated at every Mass.

The feeding of the multitude prepares us to understand that Jesus Himself is the Bread of Life. Physical bread satisfies hunger for a few hours. The Eucharist satisfies the deepest hunger of the human heart.
Every Sunday we come here hungry - not just physically, but spiritually. We hunger for peace in our families, strength in our struggles, forgiveness for our sins, hope in difficult times, and purpose in our lives. Christ feeds us with Himself because He knows that nothing else can truly satisfy the human heart.

There is another beautiful detail in today's Gospel. After everyone had eaten, twelve baskets of leftovers were collected. God's generosity is never just enough - it is overflowing.

When we trust Him, He gives us not merely what we need to survive but what we need to flourish spiritually. Sometimes He blesses us in ways we never expected. Sometimes His blessings are not material but come as peace, courage, healing, wisdom, or deeper faith.

Today's Gospel also challenges us to imitate Christ's generosity. We live in a world where many people are hungry - not only for food but for kindness, encouragement, compassion, and hope. Someone may be starving for a listening ear, a forgiving heart, or a simple act of love.

Jesus still says to His disciples today, **"Give them something to eat."** Perhaps we cannot solve every problem in the world. We cannot feed every hungry person or heal every broken heart. But we can feed the person God places in front of us today.

A kind word.

A visit to someone who is lonely.

A meal shared with someone in need.

A generous gift to support the Church and the poor.

A prayer for someone who is suffering.

These may seem like five loaves and two fish. Yet when offered with love, Christ multiplies them in ways we cannot see.

As we celebrate this Eucharist, let us place into the hands of Jesus whatever little we have - our gifts, our worries, our weaknesses, our hopes, and even our fears. We may think they are not enough. But in His hands, they become more than enough.

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May we leave this church today trusting not in the size of our resources but in the greatness of God's generosity. For the God who fed five thousand people with five loaves and two fish is the same God who feeds us today with the Bread of Life and sends us into the world to become bread for others. **Amen**.