

Homily Luke 9:11b-17 June 19, 2022

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When each of us were born, one of our first needs for us was to be fed. Food is one of the basic essential needs to physically sustain life. Barring any unusual circumstances, that feeding process begins from our parents.

As we learn in life, with a proper diet and the quality of food we put into our bodies, usually the better quality of life we will have. Our spiritual life requires feeding as well as our physical body.

Today is the feast of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. Can there be any higher quality of food to feed our spiritual need than that the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ?

Most of us and our children were baptized within the first few months of being born. We as parents professed that we accepted the role as the first teachers of our children.

Today is Father's Day. The primary role of a Father is to provide the basic needs for his family. He is also to be a role model of Christian leadership for the family.

The results of a study released here in the 21st century contained the following information:

*The religious practice of the father of a family “determines the future attendance at ... or... absence from church by the children.”

*The study found if a father doesn't attend church, “no matter how faithful his wife's devotions... only one child in 50 will become a regular worshipper.” **That is only 2%...!!!**

*The study also revealed if a father does go regularly, **75%** of the children will continue as churchgoers.

A Catholic man's greatest duty is to lead his spouse and children to meet Christ in the Mass. “Fathers who lead their children to Mass are helping to ensure their eternal salvation.”

The Church frequently ask the question, “how do we get more people to church or to keep them from leaving?”, I think we have a good start identified right here.

Some ask, why do we need to attend mass regularly? We eat three meals a day to sustain our physical strength. We also need our spiritual strength nourished regularly. We can receive the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ when we attend mass. It is the most nourishing food available for our spiritual strength.

23 years ago, Fr. Steve came to our Church Community as a spiritual leader for our parishes. To paraphrase the message at last Sunday's celebration for Fr. Steve and the new priests; “Fr. Steve has been leading our parishes with a calm, caring, and passionate approach ever since.”

“Our parishes and community are a far better place because of you and your service here.”

Our Masses are well attended, and often Fr. Steve has asked everyone to squeeze together in the pews to make room for those still coming into church. We also have many “families” father, mother and children attending Mass.

What a testament of a spiritual father leading his church family to the Body and Blood of Christ. We heard in today’s Gospel of the feeding of the multitudes with 5 loaves and 2 fish. Today multitudes are still fed spiritually with the Eucharist at mass.

To all the fathers, grandfathers, Godfathers, step fathers, father figures and holy men of our parish... thank you for all you do to bring your families and others to Christ at the Mass.

I will not end today with a question of what you can do, but ask that you enjoy a very happy and blessed Father’s Day.