

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 5, 2018

In Reading 1 Ex16:2-4, 12-15 we read of the Israelites grumbling to Moses and Aaron for being lead to the desert. The Israelites recalling having their needs met and their fill of bread prior to being led from Egypt. We may be guided through our own metaphorical desert of experience; perhaps hungering for our own times of plenty. When life interferes with our desires we can easily be left wanting more and yet a window may be opened for a revelation that we were previously unable to receive.

While the Responsorial Psalm(s) Ps 78: 3-4, 23-24, 25, 54 refrain says “The Lord gave them bread from heaven”; celebrates the wondrous deeds and abundance of our heavenly father. While we celebrate heaven coming down to earth by attending mass, it is tragic how life’s circumstances cloud our spiritual vision and do not allow us to fully appreciate the countless graces bestowed on each of us. While our time in our own personal desert may appear non-fruitful; it is an opportunity to strike the balance in the heart where the external person meets our internal spiritual person. Through the experience our sight may be restored and translate into the revelations that we were once not prepared to receive.

The Gospel John 6:24-35 reveals the crowd seeking Jesus to meet their immediate needs of bread and tangible needs. Yet he calls for all of us to seek the bread of life and that which will never perish.

We often pray for “those that have fallen asleep” during the mass. The associated readings this week appear applicable for our friends and family that may be at that crossroads in their walk. The readings illustrate those times where we may experience a lack of “fulfillment” based on misguided expectations for the faith. Where perhaps; we attempt to give and feel like we are not receiving in return. Life’s journey provides ample opportunity for pitfalls where spiritual blindness creeps in and inhibits our joy.

Ultimately; the good news provided by the Gospel of John assures us by Jesus’ words “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst”. In the realm of a receptive heart they are truly words of transformation and joy.

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