

Seventeenth Sunday in ordinary time.

A young man saw an elderly couple sitting down to lunch at McDonald's. He noticed that they had ordered one meal, and an extra drink cup. As he watched, the gentleman carefully divided the hamburger in half, counted out the fries, one for him, one for her, until each had half of them. Then he poured half of the soft drink into the extra cup and set that in front of his wife. The old man then began to eat, and his wife sat watching, with her hands folded in her lap. The young man decided to ask if they would allow him to purchase another meal for them so that they didn't have to split theirs. The old gentleman said, "Oh no. We've been married 50 years, and everything has always been and will always be shared, 50/50." The young man then asked the wife if she was not going to eat, and she replied, "It's his turn with the teeth."

Dear friends,

Food & Water is the basic thing to live. Each species has some kind of food system. We need to eat to live. Everyone in the world deserves food as all deserve to live.

Today's readings help us to think to feed and share the food that people need. Lot of times, we are under the impression, it is a duty of the Government to feed the people or to ensure the safety of the people.

In the first reading, Elisha was considered as a miracle worker, and he had a high respect among the people. We read a few stories about him in the scripture. He asked to share the food that was brought in spite of his disciples expressed their concern about not having enough to share. Elisha said there were some leftovers after everybody ate resembles the Gospel today and our life too.

In the second reading, St. Paul, in prison, reminds the Ephesians that Jesus united the Jews and the Gentiles, bringing them together as Christians in one Faith and one Baptism. Hence, he advises them to keep this unity intact as one body and one spirit by living as true Christians "bearing with one another in love," with humility, gentleness, patience, and peace. At present, we are the community that Paul describes. We are the ones called to feed the hungry today. As members of the body of Christ, we need to remember that miracles can happen through our prayers, our donations, and our hands when we help Him to distribute to the hungry the food destined for all by our generous God.

In the gospel, Jesus feeds the people. We can reflect about the eucharist next week. This week, I would like to reflect two approaches about sharing food with people. First approach would be as Mother Theresa did, we need to take food to the hungry by ourselves may be directly or by our donation to churches, other governmental agencies,

and non-governmental agencies. There should be times when we are, literally, taking food to hungry people, working in soup kitchens, giving aid to individual street people, and having a poor person eat at our table. This approach is individual, personal, and concrete.

The other approach would be to change the social, political, and economic structures that are responsible for that particular person being hungry. This approach is less personal and it is slower, but it can, at the end of the day, be more far-reaching. In it, one attempts to feed the hungry by involving oneself in social justice groups that are trying to change the conditions that produce poverty.

Both the approaches teach one thing: to share what we have with less. Jesus started that approach in today's gospel, and they had plenty. Jesus asked us to be both which needs some sacrifice and willingness to do it. It is about sharing and caring. God cares for us and he shares for us. he shared his son once for all and he shares his grace and blessings to all of us through our gifts and talents.

Let us pray this Eucharist help us to share and care for the people around us in the community and in the world.