

Pastoral reflection: 17th Sunday in Ord. Time- John 6,1-15

Gift vs. Greed

Is it a gift or a right? We people seem to work harder to gain the good things in life. Yet, if we were asked what we cherish the most, we would point to those things that cannot be earned. Ultimately, the question falls to our inner character. Are we self-giving or self centered?

Jesus presented such a choice to crowd he fed with bread and fish. He gave them a sign. But was it a sign of faith or a sign of birthright?

Sometimes we confuse God's blessing with faith: we assume abundance is the sign of God's favor. This sets up a vicious cycle of greed. The little we have is not enough; we want more. And we rationalize this greed in the name of God. The people fell to the temptation of greed; after they experience God's blessing, they wanted more. In the people's eyes, what Jesus did was sufficient to make him the prophet-king of a country freed from Rome's dominance. So, they made their move, and Jesus fled.

How can we truly appreciate God's gifts to us? And, how do we resist the temptation to demand more from God and turn faith into an exercise of selfish greed?