

FROM THE DESK OF **Fr. Julius**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ; Grace and Peace!



Thank you all for your prayers, good wishes, surprise cakes and ice cream which helped me mark the 29th anniversary of my priestly ordination last Sunday. Although I had placed an order for “no gifts” some still insisted on donations to help with my ministries. May God bless all of you. It has been a humbling experience participating in the vibrant life of our parish. How can I convey the warmth and family quality of our parish?! All are encouraged to continue to stand by each other as we grow in love, [*caritate*] increasing this truly Christian community. Our liturgy seems to be a compelling endorsement especially for our parish family as we read the opening lines of John 6, which we will continue over the next weeks.

The first reading conveys how the prophet Elisha, by invoking the power of God, feeds one hundred men with twenty barley loaves. This miracle foreshadows the Gospel account of Jesus' miraculous feeding of the crowd that follow him to hear his words. In the second reading St. Paul inspires the early Christians in Ephesus; he implores both Jews and Gentiles to come together as Christians in *one faith and one baptism*, urging them to bear with one another, with *all humility, gentleness, and patience* by sharing their blessings in love and peace.

Today's miraculous feeding by Jesus of the five thousand, who were far from home, having fasted for three days, is a foretaste of the institution of the Holy Eucharist and at the same time a direct appeal to physically nourish the hungry. Those who were fed promptly address Jesus with his two Messianic titles: "*the Prophet*" and "*the one who is to come.*" This miracle reassures us that God works marvels through the good will and services of ordinary people, with commonplace gifts.

Therefore, in this week's liturgy, we experience a caring, generous, and compassionate God in the Person of our Lord. You and I can share and work with God in communicating His compassion and generosity, as the early Christians did. By committing our humble blessings and talents, God can multiply our small acts of love! We can continue our own unselfish efforts at "sharing" right here in our parish: such as supporting our Women's Group and the Knights of Columbus who are especially outstanding in our parish and in the diocese. With our essential morning prayer, we can ask our Lord to open up ways we can share throughout the course of that day, leaving it up to Him to magnify our gifts.

Blessed Sunday