

- I had a little trouble sleeping the other night so I put on the television to watch a movie and hopefully fall asleep.
- As I watched, I was amazed at the number of commercials there are on late night television. It seemed like every 5 minutes the movie was interrupted for a commercial.
- And all of the commercials tried to sell you something you could not live with out, something that would make your life more fulfilled.
- Bigger cars, better jobs, and bigger houses – even the best set of frying pans. Who knew frying pans could bring such joy!!
- But if we had more of these things would we really be fulfilled? Usually when we get that thing we thought would bring true fulfillment and real satisfaction – there can still be a bit of restlessness. We might think: Is this all there is? Is there something more? Better?
- And eventually, the search for more, for that next thing, for true fulfillment begins again. (Pause)
- Today’s Gospel speaks to this issue of being restless and being truly fulfilled.
- This Sunday and for the next few Sundays our Gospel readings come from Chapter 6 of John’s Gospel. In chapter 6 John focuses on Jesus as “ The Bread of Life”.

- Chapter 6 begins with the account of Jesus feeding a large crowd, thousands of people with just 5 loaves of bread and two fish. It is the only miracle that appears in all 4 Gospel books so we need to pay close attention to its lessons.
- One of the most striking elements of this story is the people's hunger and Jesus' readiness to feed them. Those people on that mountainside bought two types of hunger with them. There was the physical hunger, for bodily nourishment and physical healings.
- But the other hunger was the hunger to see Jesus and hear His words. People were attracted to Jesus because they sensed Jesus offered them something different. Something they needed to make their lives complete, fulfilled.
- They sensed a call, an invitation to a close relationship with God. You might say they had a spiritual hunger.
- Jesus satisfied both types of hunger on that mountainside.
- First by multiplying the loaves and fish. Transcending the laws of physical nature (stepping right out of them). Possible? You bet.
- God can do anything; God is the creator of all things!! It's when we forget this fact that fear and worry can enter into our lives.
- How can I face this bad medical diagnosis? How can life go on after this broken relationship? How can my family and I survive this job loss? It is at these times we need to remember God makes a way

when we can't see one. God makes what looks impossible, possible.

- We see in today's Gospel, Phillip forgot this. When Jesus asked Phillip "where can we can we buy enough food to feed this crowd?" Phillip answers almost sarcastically, are you kidding? This is an impossible situation. We don't have enough money and there is no place to buy the food if we did!
- But Jesus was testing Philips faith. Notice Jesus asked Phillip WHERE not HOW.
- Ask yourself, why was Phillip worried? He was with Jesus day after day. He saw the power, saw the miracles. Why worry? The answer is Phillip was human, like us. We can forget we have a loving powerful God who is close by.
- The right answer, the answer Jesus expected of Phillip was: You can feed this crowd, Jesus. You are able to provide. You are where we can go!!
- We need to take a lesson from this, especially when we face what seem impossible situations in our lives.
- We see in today's Gospel that the people's physical hunger was satisfied because Jesus cares about our physical well-being. But something else happened there.
- Those people came with a spiritual hunger and through this miracle; Jesus revealed He was the promised Messiah. He would provide fulfillment. He is the answer to the question: "Is there something more to life? Something better?"

- Later in Chapter 6 of John’s Gospel we will hear Jesus speak these words to the thousands who are following Him: “ I am the bread of life, He who comes to me shall not hunger, He who believes in me will never thirst”.
- Jesus tells them there is a certain way of life that brings lasting, true fulfillment. That dispels the restlessness. That feeds our spiritual hunger. Jesus invites them to spend time with Him, invites them enter into a relationship with Him, to follow His teachings and Jesus promises He will lead them to that way of life.
- We are given the exact same invitation today. Jesus invites us to live a fulfilled life by letting Him feed us: physically and spiritually.
- Jesus calls us to see that the same miracle, the multiplication, is still happening today. He knows our physical needs and is waiting to feed each of us.
- He told us to pray “Give us this day our daily bread”. Ask for the basics: food, shelter, health, work, and love of others. Ask for it daily and it will be given daily. He knows our physical needs.
- And He knows our spiritual needs.
- Jesus desires to be with us always, dwelling in each of us, to be accessible and in constant relationship with us – feeding our souls.
- So He does this wonderful thing. He invites us to a meal– The Holy Eucharist. Where He takes the little we place there – bread and wine – and changes them into His real presence – His body and blood. Do we really think about what an amazing

miracle this is each time we come to be fed? A far greater miracle than multiplying some bread and fish!

- A miracle that brings us true satisfaction and true fulfillment: **if...**
- I say “if” because there is another important part of the invitation Jesus extends to us. Just as the disciples that day were asked to take that miraculous food and distribute it to the crowds, we disciples are called to be the Lord’s feeding hands in our world today. We are called to distribute the love of God to others.
- In our second reading St. Paul reminds us of this when he writes: ” I urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received”.
- In other words, we have a job to do. Paul reminds us: everyone fed by Jesus is fed for a purpose. Fed, so that we can bring God’s peace and love to others. We are to realize the gifts, and talents and love the Lord gives to us are meant not only to nourish us but also to nourish others by our letting them know they matter – that God loves and cares for them.
- What a tremendous job we have been given, but nothing in life can be more fulfilling.