

## THE SOLEMNITY OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

June 22, 2025

**Gospel:** (Luke 9:11-17)

The Twelve approached Jesus and said, “Dismiss the crowd so that they can go to the surrounding villages and farms and find lodging and provisions; for we are in a deserted place.” He said to them, “*Give them some food yourselves.*” They replied, “Five loaves and two fish are all we have, unless we go and buy food for all these people.” They numbered about five thousand. Then Jesus said, “*Have them sit down in groups of about fifty.*” They did so and made them all sit down. Then taking the five loaves and two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing over them, broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. They all ate and were satisfied. And when the leftover fragments were picked up, they filled twelve wicker baskets.

**Reflection:**

There is perhaps no more heart-wrenching sight than the malnourished and starving. These sights demand a response from us. We know there is food in abundance; we know we are a nation that generally overeats. We know that often the world hunger problem is tied into politics. We know all these facts. And so when we celebrate this particular feast and hear these readings we are once more prodded to respond. Our own share in God’s abundant gifts to us demands that those gifts spill out for those in need. The gospel moves from the practical, tangible level to the mystery of God’s abundance and excess; from our being in control to surrendering ourselves so that God provides all we need. (Living Liturgy, p.150)

**Vincentian Meditation:**

Jesus was not only compassionate with his heart, but he was compassionate also with his hands, and he willed that the compassion should reach the people until the end of time. There are millions who watch pictures of poverty on our television screens and feel generous towards the poor. Their reaction, so often goes no further than feeling. Vincentians, however, imitate Jesus in that they are not content to feel generous, they show their generosity by being a sign of God’s love, a sign of God’s generosity, and a sign of God’s service, of his service in a special way to the poor. The most unfortunate people in society are those who have not had the experience of being loved. Before loving others, we must come to the realization that we are at every moment of our lives being loved by God. (McCullen, Deep Down Things, p. 669)

**Discussion:** (*Share your thoughts after a moment of silence*)

**How have you experienced God’s love, God’s generosity and God’s service?**

**Closing Prayer:**

Jesus, you are the bread that fills the longing of our hearts,  
**-may we be the sign of your love.**

Jesus, you are the wine that satisfies our thirst for holiness,  
**-may we be the sign of your generosity.**

Jesus, your food strengthens us for the journey,  
**-may we be the sign of your service. Amen.**

