

JULY 29, 2018



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



2 KINGS 4:42-44

PSALM 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18

EPHESIANS 4:1-6

JOHN 6:1-15

REFLECTION

Sharing is one of the first human behaviors our parents teach us, and yet its implications throughout life grow in significance. We start with learning how to share our toys, and then how to share our lunch at school. When we become confirmed adults in the Church, we register with our parish and pledge to tithe. The suggested offering for tithing is 10 percent of your income, with 5 percent for parish and 5 percent for other social services and ministries. Take a minute to calculate your yearly income in your brain. Now figure out what 10 percent of that is. Chances are, it doesn't amount to much. You might think that such a little contribution could never make a difference, or that since you make so little, you can't be expected to spare anything. The disciples in this Sunday's Gospel thought as we often think when asked to share our resources. We don't have very much. How can it help anyone? And yet, Jesus feeds five thousand with just five loaves and two fish. Even though Jesus' compassion baffles the disciples, they do what he asks and share what little they have with the crowds. Sure enough, everyone eats until they are full, and there is food left over! We, too, are called to put our trust in Jesus, knowing that when we give everything over to him, we will receive all of the nourishment that we need.



ENTERTAINING ANGELS:
THE DOROTHY DAY
STORY (1996) PG-13

ACTION

This week, buy food for a needy family with your own money. Try to stay away from unhealthy options like chips and packaged bakery items, and focus on getting healthy, filling foods. Don't buy anything that you think is too gross to eat. Make sure that you get canned or boxed foods that don't need to be refrigerated and that don't perish. Deliver your donation to a local food depository, or, if you like, directly to a family in need. You might want to research Dorothy Day this week or watch a movie about her life, like *Entertaining Angels*. In prayer, reflect on how she gave everything over to Jesus.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- How does it feel to spend your own money on a meal for a family?
- What blessings do you have in your life? Can you name 5,000 blessings?