

August 19, 2012
20th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Again today in the Gospel, Jesus continues his Eucharistic discourse.

Between last Sunday and this Sunday, we celebrated the Assumption of Mary into heaven. On her feast day, we read her beautiful Magnificat. Following are a few words about that.

In Mary's proclamation (Magnificat), she announces:

"He has cast down the mighty from their thrones. And has lifted up the lowly."

"He has filled the hungry with good things...."

Mary was once a homemaker; she had to put bread on the table, which she probably personally baked on an outdoor oven. She knew what it was to be hungry and what it was to be fed.

As the mother of Jesus, she fed the body of Christ.

It would seem to me when we advocate for the hungry, we are doing Mary's work of feeding the body of Christ as it is in the world today. And as the old saying goes, "A woman's work is never done!"

It is so for Mary. She still speaks for the poor and the hungry and would expect us to do so as well.

(That is why I personally called my congress man this week and urged against congress cutting funds for food stamps. In doing so, I think I am doing "Mary's work!")

Today's Scriptures:

The whole theme of food and eating is carried out in today's first reading. Wisdom, personified as feminine, calls us in to eat of her food and drink of her wine.

When we DO drink in wisdom, we realize that actual food is meant to be shared.

The second reading continues the theme of eating and drinking and warns us against excess:

"Do not get drunk on wine which leads to debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit..."

Finally in today's gospel, Jesus tells us that his special bread given to us at every Eucharist is "Resurrection Bread!"

The one who eats his body and drinks his blood "has eternal life!"

We know that the breakfast we shared this morning will see us through the day, but then tomorrow we will be hungry again.

But the Eucharist feeds us for the total future:

"I am the living bread that has come down from heaven, says the Lord.

Whoever eats of this bread will live forever!"