

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

July 29, 2018

The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kings 4:42-44 † Ephesians 4:1-6 † John 6:1-15



Reflection by: Sister Patricia Wormann, OP

As I reflected on this Sunday's readings, the Eucharistic theme was, of course, evident in John's gospel, but as I continued to listen in the silence, two memories kept floating into my thoughts. The first came from my childhood memory of my parents. Coming from a large family, life was not always easy. When things seemed hopeless, my Mom or Dad would always say: "Don't worry, God will take care of us" and God did — maybe differently from what we expected but always more than we could imagine. As a young sister, my community prayed daily: "Providence can provide, Providence did provide, Providence will provide." There was always a common confidence that God would take care of us, individually and communally. I think today's readings speak loudly of God's providence — God's deep care for each of us and all of us. Out of a little — 5 loaves and 2 fish — comes abundance . . . enough to feed more than 5,000 with leftovers!!!

Oftentimes, we worry. Will we have enough money? Will we have enough time? Are there enough people? What if...? What will become of...? Can we...? God provides, surprises, fills us with more than we can ever imagine. We don't know how the food of Elisha or the little boy's lunch fed so many. What we do know is that our relationship to each other and to our provident God makes all the difference. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul urges them to live in a manner worthy of their call. "Strive to preserve the unity of spirit through the bond of peace; one body one spirit called to the one hope of your call." The miracle is in each of us. We are the visible presence of God in our day. What are we called to do for and with each other?