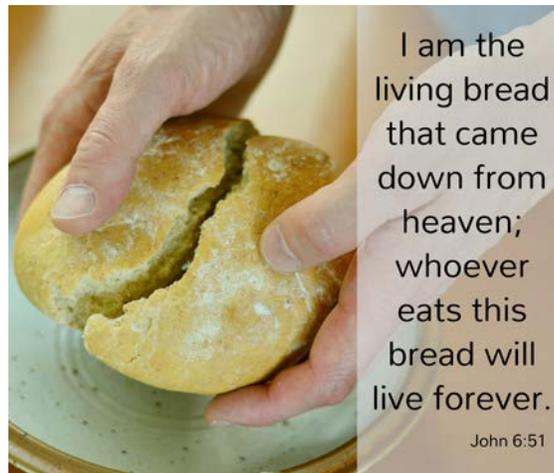


## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

August 19, 2018

The Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Proverbs 9:1-6 † Ephesians 5:15-20 † John 6:51-58



**Reflection by: Anne Whalen Cerchio, OPA**

“I am the bread of life.”

“I am manna from heaven.”

Imagine if your neighbor was standing in front of your house where you were gathered with other neighbors and friends and announced, “I am manna from heaven.” Might make you think twice about the man’s sanity? I would think that is how the Judeans felt. Here is Jesus, son of Mary and Joseph, the local carpenter, who attends synagogue and lives right in the neighborhood announcing he is manna from heaven. Naturally, the locals go into a tailspin and wonder what hit Jesus in the head.

They only knew of Jesus in his humanity. They had no idea he came from divinity and shared in the Father’s divinity. So, all he said in this gospel just sounded plain crazy to them. Perhaps it was this proclamation that set the stage for the disbelief and suffering of Jesus to come. After all, what right did a mere mortal have to say that he was manna from heaven?

We understand that Jesus was born to Mary and, therefore, human. But we never met him, so it’s hard for us at times to accept the humanity of Jesus. We are perfectly comfortable with his divinity. It’s what we learned. It’s what we know. But how sad we struggle with human side of Jesus. It is, after all, the whole reason for his birth and death. It was a humanity he accepted willingly and the great sacrifice of his father to allow all of this to come to pass, so that through Jesus’ humanity, we could share in the divinity of the Father and the Son. In his humanity, Jesus teaches us that the divine is found in feeding the hungry, befriending the marginalized, caring for those who mourn and the importance of fellowship.

So, while “I am the bread of life” is an amazing fact, so, too, is the fact that Jesus is our brother and we share in, with him, the divinity and love of our Father.