



Seventeenth Sunday Of The Year Hunger

Introduction

Seeing that the people were hungry Christ fed them, and did it so generously. Most of us have experienced momentary hunger, but not long term hunger. But there are many people in the world who are dying of hunger and of malnutrition at this very moment. They are our brothers and sisters. Do we feel any active solidarity with them?

First Reading (2 Kings 4: 42- 44)

The prophet Elisha miraculously provides abundant food for a hundred men. The miracle is a sign of God's concern for his people.

Second Reading (Ephesians 4: 1-6)

St. Paul pleads with the Ephesians to live a life in keeping with the Gospel. He stresses the need for unity and harmony.

Gospel (John 6:1-15)

Like Elisha Jesus feeds the people miraculously. However, the people misunderstand the meaning of this event.

Prayer Of The Faithful

In this Gospel we see the Lord's concern for the hungry and the needy, and his generosity in helping them. As he looks to his followers to carry on this work, we pray that we may not fail.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For Christians: that they may imitate the generosity of that young boy and not hesitate to share what they have with those who are less fortunate than themselves. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.



For all Government leaders: that at least some of the vast amounts of money being spent on weapons of death and destruction may instead be used to feed the hungry of the world. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the hungry of the world: that their hunger may be satisfied through the generosity of the well off. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Communion Reflection

Mother Teresa tells how once in India she came across a family that hadn't eaten for days. It was a Hindu family. She took a small quantity of rice, and gave it to that family. What happened surprised her. Before she knew where she was the mother of the family had divided into two halves. Then she took half of it to the next door, which happened to a Muslim family. Seeing this she turned to the mother and asked: "How much will you have left over? Are that not enough for yourselves?" And the woman replied simply: "But they haven't eaten for days either". "That ", says Mother Teresa, "takes greatness". Her greatness consisted in being able to look beyond her own need.