

PEDRO ARRUPE INSTITUTE, RAIA - GOA

REFLECTIONS ON THE SUNDAY LITURGY

25th July 2021 – Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kg 4: 42-44 | Eph 4: 1-6 | Jn 6: 1-15

Spiritual Track: Fr. Jude Carrasco SJ

GOD'S GENEROSITY

When, we look around in nature, we witness, that the sun gives generously of its rays and the rain falls generously on all alike. No distinctions are made and none are cast aside. Similarly, Jesus' nature was one of generosity. He welcomed everyone and he challenges us to do the same, by being inclusive, rather than exclusive. This will be possible, when we open our hearts and minds to God. When we do this, then we will witness miracles in our lives.

At times, the resources in our hands, will seem next to impossible to be of any assistance, for others. However, the very same resources in the hands of God, will have infinite possibilities. That is what we witness in the Gospel of St. John. The five Barley loaves and two fish are blessed and multiplied by Jesus to feed a crowd of people. The same resources being of minimal significance in the hands of the apostles, however, when they are blessed by Jesus, they are sufficient and even the disciples are able to gather a few baskets full of them, after the crowd has eaten enough. Jesus was able to work this miracle, because of the generosity of a boy, whose name is not mentioned, perhaps to indicate to us when we give generously and selflessly, we need to remain anonymous, in order for the Lord to work powerfully in our lives.

When we are generous with the Lord, we will experience the providential care of the Lord for us, which the Responsorial Psalm of today, says, "The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs". This was very much evident from the life of St. Paul, who in-spite of difficulties, had this to say, in the letter to the Ephesians, "I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace".

How do I want to respond today to the Lord, who, continues to be generous to me? Am I willing to be generous with the Lord? If my answer is in the affirmative, then just like the little boy who gave generously, I too, just like the apostles, will witness miracles happening in the ordinary situations of my life. More importantly, I will experience God's generosity.