

PASTOR'S COLUMN

“...BUT WHAT GOOD IS THAT FOR SO MANY?”

“...But what good is that for so many?” This phrase taken from today's Gospel represents sentiment that often causes paralysis in our lives and in our world. In turn it prevents us from doing the good that can make a difference.

We sell ourselves short. We feel that what we have to offer will not make a difference, so we think, “Why even try?”

The miracle that takes place in today's Gospel, “The Feeding of the Five Thousand”, is not so much about what happens to the bread and fish, but rather, about what happens to the people.

The young boy has five barley loaves and a couple of dried fish that he is willing to share. The number of people who need to be fed does not daunt him. The Apostles, on the other hand, find the situation paralyzing: “Not even with two hundred days' wages could we buy loaves enough to give each of them a mouthful.” It is the child-like Faith that wins the day.

The young boy is willing to simply and trustingly share what he has and let God take care of the rest. In this account, we experience the basis of miracles. It is not a matter of the quantity and quality of our time, talent, and treasure. The basis of miracles is the willingness of each individual person to share, in faith and trust, whatever they may have, at that moment, to give. One's responsibility is simply to give, not to anticipate how the gifts will be received and used as a determinant as to whether the gifts should be given in the first place.



In this kind of approach, one can easily find a reason every time not to give, and not to help out. This attitude causes paralysis that prevents us from doing good.

Often times in today's world, we hear people say, “Why doesn't God cause a miracle to feed the hungry of the world?” “Why are people starving to death, especially children?” “Why doesn't God intervene?” Indeed, God has intervened by showing us how to feed the hungry and take care of the hurting. In any given moment, we are called to share what we have and who we are. In that faithful and trusting response that we must initiate, God is then “freed” to make miracles happen! God needs our “yes” and our cooperation.

Today, give your “yes” to God. Be willing to share who you are and what you have. It will make a difference. You will have created a space in which God's miracles happen!