

August 3, 2008  
Sunday of the Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

Isaiah 55:1-32

Psalms 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18

Romans 8:35, 37-39

Matthew 14:13-21

*Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, ¶he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds.*

As I read this, I recall the words of Jesus where he instructs the disciples to feed his sheep. I cannot separate these two gospel stories. There are two points in this gospel that speak to me today. One, before Jesus broke the bread, he looked to his father and offered a blessing. And, two, Jesus gives the loaves to his disciples to feed the hungry people. Jesus never acted alone. His every action was in unity with God, the loving parent of all of us and, he reached out in relationship with those who said yes to his call to join him in his mission. "Feed my sheep." What is the meaning of this command for me today? Who needs to be fed? The hungry in Indianapolis and the hungry across the world is an obvious answer. But what are some other ways we can be hungry? As I look around I see so many hungry for recognition and validation, hungry to know that they are of value and worth in and to this world. A young man, in jail with little hope of a future that matched the dreams of most of us, said to me that a particular priest, who took the time to talk with him when he occasionally stopped by the Church, was the only person who make him feel like "I was somebody" in the 23 years of his life. "Feed my sheep." As I prepare to go about my day, I ask God to help me notice those that need to be fed today with my time, my presence, or my resources. I also ask for the grace to be willing to be a blessing in the life of anyone who passes my way.

It's not about how much we do, but how much love we put into what we're doing.  
Mother Teresa