

August 9, 2009—5pm, 7am, 10am
Sunday 19OT—Year B
Father David Lawrence

Jesus continues his Bread of Life discourse today by repeating that he is the bread that came down from heaven, he is the bread of life, he is the living bread. And it is important first of all for us to consider what Jesus is trying to teach us by using the symbol of bread.

We know that bread is something very simple, a basic staple, a humble type of food. Bread is for rich and poor alike. And bread is given to be eaten; it hardly has any other use. So in all of this Jesus is telling us today that he has come to serve, he has come to nourish us. Jesus has humbled himself to be of benefit to all people.

We who call ourselves Christian and who eat this living bread ought to imitate Jesus in this way. All of us can be of service to the kingdom of God and the Church which is the Body of Christ. Sometimes, many times however, our pride gets in the way of our fulfilling this God given mission. Our pride causes complaining, fighting and lots of self-interest. We waste a lot of time in looking for worldly things, in bettering my own house but forgetting about what is beyond.

Humility on the contrary moves us to serve others, to accept their imperfections and to strive eagerly for the kingdom of God together with all of our brothers and sisters. We become bread for the life of the world. Getting involved in a parish ministry is a very good way to be of service to others and to be a part of the solution instead of a complaining bystander. After Mass today, we have our annual ministry fair and you can see various opportunities of how you can help our community of faith. Jesus who has given us his body and blood for our nourishment expects a generous response from each of us.