

Aug 5, 2018

Father's Corner

I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst!" John 6: 35

In life, it is easy for us to become obsessed with the details. We want to know what is going to happen, when it will happen, and exactly how it is going to be accomplished. This is no different from the Israelites in our first reading this weekend from the Book of Exodus. When they were freed from slavery, they had certain expectations, certain hopes, certain wants and desires, and wandering in the desert certainly wasn't on any of their lists! So they, like we at times, began to grumble towards God who had not given them exactly what they had expected and wanted.

As St. Paul speaks to the Ephesians though, the grumbling of our pasts are to remain in the past if we are truly to put on our new selves in Christ! That in Christ, all of our wants, needs, and desires will be fulfilled and only through Christ can they truly be fulfilled. The struggle though for many of us is that we have an internal longing and desire for God, but have become attached to our creature comforts that God is calling us to put aside. We say with our mouths that we want to devote ourselves to God, but our actions show us, many times, showing another story.

We are stuck in a cycle that many times seems futile. We continue to, as Jesus puts it in today's Gospel, "work for

food that perishes." The daily struggles that we face are nothing to the power of God, but when we are in the midst of struggles, we many times feel like nothing but perseverance and selfdetermination can get us through. So we strap on our work boots, and power our ways through, and it is only after the fact that we begin to realize that there may have been an easier way to accomplish satisfaction, but our pride or our stubbornness may have not allowed us to give in to the lighter path. May we then, begin to stop working for food that will perish, and instead seek the True Bread which leads not toward satisfaction in this life, but in the world to come. This Bread that can only come from Christ, and which Christ has become in the Eucharist!

Father Grover