

## A Response to God's invitation is a word "Yes", not a question of "How"

Jesus said to Philip in this Sunday Gospel, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" has shown Jesus' compassion toward the large crowd of people who followed Him. This compassion led Jesus to a specific action of charity. Jesus did not do the act of charity by Himself alone by performing a great miracle of turning nothing into something to eat for a large crowd of people that was about 5000 men not including women and children.

Jesus raised his concern with His disciples about the healthiness of mind, body and soul of those who followed Him. Thus, Jesus invited them to work with Him to feed the big crowd. The disciples responded to Jesus' concern and invitation in a pessimistic way, "Two hundred days' wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little." Their response to Jesus, although seemed to be pessimistic, yet sounded logical in the minds of adult human beings.

However, the logic in the minds of adult human beings often keeps one from saying "yes" to God's invitation. An appropriate way that one can cooperate with God is NOT a question of "how" YET an answer of "Yes." The "yes" of the heart that trusts in God and lets God lead the way through one's limited capacity along with his or her life of prayer, observation, listening and reflection. By living so, God will lead one step at the time on the way to let God's will be done in the lives of those who follow Him.

The child, who willingly shares his five barley loaves and two fish mentioned in this Sunday Gospel, teaches me and those who follow Jesus a way to follow Jesus in the spirits of simplicity, trusting and sharing with others. In this child-like spirit, one is called to say "yes" to God's invitation rather than asking a question "how."

By saying "yes" to God, He will multiply whatever we have, even just five barley loaves and two fish into a great miracle to make a difference in the lives of many others.

***May the God's Spirit help us all to become more like God in our daily lives in God's mercy, compassion and generosity to share with others, especially our brothers and sisters in Vietnam and around the world who have been deeply impacted by this Chinese virus.***

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