

AUGUST 2, 2015



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



EXODUS 16:2-4, 12-15

PSALM 78:3-4, 23-24, 25, 54

EPHESIANS 4:17, 20-24

JOHN 6:24-35

REFLECTION

Even though the crowd has just witnessed a miracle—a really big miracle—they can't seem to understand what it means. In last week's Gospel we heard about Jesus feeding more than 5,000 people with a little boy's lunch. They track down Jesus and want to hear what he has to say, but they are confused by Jesus's statements that he is the bread of life and that no one who comes to him will go hungry. He has just showed them in a concrete way but they don't seem to understand how it relates to their salvation. In the First Reading, the Israelites have been rescued from slavery but they still grumble against God with limited understanding. The readings mean that God will save us *from* hunger but he will also feed the deep hunger we all have to be *with* God. In her autobiography, Dorothy Day, the great Catholic activist, writer, and founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, described this emptiness and hunger for God as "the long loneliness." This emptiness can only be filled by Jesus, the bread of life.



Read about the life of Dorothy Day, her work of feeding and caring for the poor, and of her deep faith in God.
www.catholicworker.org/dorothyday/index.cfm

ACTION

This week, consider doing something to feed others. Host an informal dinner with your family and friends, asking them to bring in food to share with others. Collect your favorite non-perishable foods and deliver them to a local soup kitchen or Meals on Wheels. If you know of a lonely neighbor, invite him or her to share dinner with you. It doesn't have to be fancy. The idea is to share your food, time, and presence with someone else.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- The crowd seeks Jesus out. They are moved by what they've seen and heard from him. Do you ever turn to God when you're hungry for wisdom or friendship? Have you ever felt, in a literal or spiritual sense, that you were being fed by God?
- The Second Reading encourages us to "put away the old self" and let go of the bad habits and choices we've made in the past. What are some things you need to let go of?