



June 6, 2010

Ordinary Time: the Most Holy body and Blood of Christ

He said to them, "Give them some food yourselves."—Luke 9:13

Dear Friends;

There are many hungers in our world both spiritual and physical. Today there are 6.8 billion people in the world. Today 22,089 died of hunger. 4,326,213 died of hunger this year. There are 1,024,871,268 undernourished people in the world right now. There are 1,150,345,774 overweight people in the world at this moment and 342,306,602 obese people presently in the world (statistics from stopthehunger.com).

While the physical hunger is obvious from the statistics we can also see evidence of spiritual hunger in the numbers of overweight and obese. Sometimes we replace our spiritual longings and fill them with that which does not satisfy. To both these hungers Jesus invites us to feed the hungry ourselves—both an overwhelming task.

In our own part of the world physical hunger is on the upswing. Demand at St. Vincent de Paul in Brentwood is up. And as we heard on Catholic Charities Appeal Sunday a few weeks ago that in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties demand for Charities has increased from several thousands a few years ago to nearly 20,000 in the first 10 months of the current fiscal year. In our own local community there are members who are attempting to form an ecumenical food bank. What ever you can do to support these and other organizations helps the hungry.

Fr. Ron Rolheiser is rector of the Oblate Theological School in San Antonio and is a prolific writer on the topic spirituality. He identifies three hungers in our modern western culture:

- there is a general lack of interiority—that is we no longer reflect on life's meaning,
- our emphasis on our individualism has led to a sense of isolation
- the frightening pace of change.

One of the things that can feed these spiritual hungers is belonging to a faith community and tradition. To be part of a group of people who value my uniqueness but at the same time invite me to use those gifts for others. We are also part of spiritual tradition that values knowledge of oneself and values the quiet time it takes to commune with God. We also value moving as a group. Those who have more strength to outpace others have an obligation to slow down and help those who are lagging behind. We are not alone but we are in this together.

As members of the Body of Christ we are nourished by the bread of Christ's teaching and the sacrament of his self giving love. We are nourished so that in turn we may nourish. We find our life's meaning through the loving eyes of others—a holy communion. Today let us bless the God who nourishes and sustains us.

Peace,

Fr Ron