

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



Acme or Shoprite

Dairy Queen or Demarest Farms

Ridge Dinner or Fresh Market

Chances are you'll visit one of them this week, be that for the weekly shop or simply to buy an ice cream or a sandwich.

"Where can we buy food to eat?" Jesus asks Philip in today's Gospel.

One of my classmates in the seminary, who loved to eat, said his favorite Gospel was that of Luke, because in every chapter Jesus was either eating or at a meal. The Gospel often speaks of food: in the way of abstinence - fasting - or the preparing, eating and feasting at

meals. The Pharisees called Jesus a glutton and a drunkard!

The first temptation he faced in the desert concerned food: "Tell these stones to turn into bread..."

We speak of the bread winner, of putting food on the table, of bringing home the loaf.

A lot of our life revolves around food. Buying, cooking and eating it. For some this is a joy, a gastronomical art; for others a chore or a necessity. It can be dispensed of by shopping online or at the drive thru, or become a painstaking labor of love –which coupons can be used at which store? Whatever the case, all of us need to eat.

That's why multiplication of food has always been a very popular miracle. Food that appears out of nowhere. No more shopping, no more pushing the trolley around the aisle, no more carting the stuff home and unpacking. No more looking for what's on sale, no more cutting coupons. Simply get home, open the pantry and presto, the food has been replenished automatically without you having to worry about it. Just sit down and eat.

God did this with the Mana for the people of Israel in the desert.

Elijah did it with the flour and oil for the widow.

St. Jean Vianney multiplied grain when it ran out.

St Philip Neri was able to serve breakfast to all his street kids in the same way.

Jesus multiplies the bread and the fish.

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta said: "There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread but there are many more dying for a little love".

There is a food that is offered to us here at Mass this Sunday. You don't need to pay for it. You don't need to shop for it. You don't need to prepare it. It will be served to everyone who comes here hungry.

It is the only food that is able to satisfy us: the love of Christ who gives himself to us in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Will you come and eat? Will you experience that this love is able to satisfy you?

Fr. Sean