

# I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE.

*Eighteenth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time*

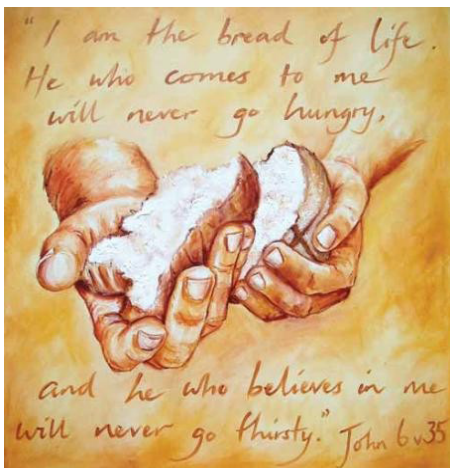


*San Ignacio de Loyola Parish*

*August 2, 2015*

## REFLECTION ON THE WORD

**T**he bread the crowd seeks in today's Gospel is perishable. They eat this bread but become hungry again—they must keep procuring this bread. The bread Jesus offers is eternal. Those who eat



this bread will never hunger again. They cannot procure this bread because it is the Father's gift: the "true bread from heaven" that is Jesus himself.

Do we seek only nourishment offered by perishable bread? Or do we seek the Bread only God can give—Bread that is abundant and Life-giving? God's abundance is a sign of messianic times, of God's reign being established, of eternal Life. Our sharing in this abundance is already a sharing in the fullness of Life to come. The "bread" of God...which comes down from heaven...gives life to the world". We consume the bread from heaven so that the mystery of Life may consume us, drawing us to eternal life.

**Words to reflect upon: the mystery of Life, drawing us to eternal life**

*Alleluia, alleluia.*

*One does not live on bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.*

*Alleluia, alleluia.*

## Pope Francis

We begin to understand what faith means when we open ourselves to the immense love of God that changes us inwardly and enables us to see our lives with new eyes.



## LAUDATUM SI'

Pope Francis' encyclical letter **Laudatum Si': On Care for our Common Home**, is not, as it is being



called by the world media, just "the encyclical on the environment". It is so much more! Your editor has been reading it carefully now for a week intending to give you parts of it here in the bulletins; that plan has now been discarded as an "impossible dream". We will continue to present some of its beautiful passages here, but if you are to truly benefit from its multitude of spiritual and social messages you will have to read it for yourselves in its entirety. If you only read Chapter Three "The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis" ("Humanity has entered a new era in which our technical prowess has brought us to a crossroads..."), I guarantee you will be unable to resist reading the entire letter. On page one, Francis tells us that he "would like to enter into dialogue with all people". Surely that invitation includes you! The original Vatican text in English is easily available on Google or can be ordered from Amazon or any of the many other publishing sources available.

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### On Care For Our Common Home

(5) Authentic human development has a moral character.

(10) **He (St. Francis of Assisi) shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace.**

(19) The continued acceleration of changes affecting humanity and the planet is coupled today with a more intensified pace of life and work which might be called "rapidification". Although change is part of the working of complex systems, the speed with which human activity has developed contrasts with the naturally slow pace of biological evolution. Moreover, the goals of this rapid and constant change are not necessarily geared to the common good or to integral and sustainable human development. Change is something desirable, yet it becomes a source of anxiety when it causes harm to the world and to the quality of life of much of humanity.

## LET US PRAY!

During his papal visit to Ecuador in July, Pope Francis called for intense prayer for a “miracle” at the October synod of bishops meeting on family life issues. With a homily centered on the Gospel story of the wedding feast at Cana—where Jesus, at Mary’s asking, miraculously made



wine from water—the pope asked the crowd to pray that a similar miracle could occur in the bishops’ discussions.

In his prepared text, Francis told the crowd that the goal of the synod is “to mature a true spiritual discernment and find concrete solution to the many difficult and important challenges families must confront in our times. I ask you to intensify your prayer for this intention so that what still seems to be impure to us, to scandalize us, or frighten us, God...can transform it into a miracle”.

**“Families today need this miracle”**, he added as an aside to his prepared text as he so often does.

## PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE

*Responsorial Psalm 78:3-4, 23-25, 54*

The Lord gave them bread from heaven. The bread from heaven of which the psalmist sings is the person of Jesus given to us so that we may have fullness of life. The singing calls us, the community, to believe in this gift and remain faithful to the relationship it establishes. How is Jesus giving you bread from heaven every day? How does your eating of this Bread every Eucharist strengthen your faith in Jesus?

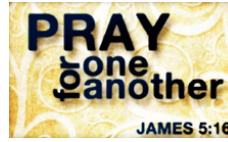
In a society of strangers, in a world where rural villagers are now more the rarity than the norm, we all live private lives in increasingly larger groups where no one is responsible and everyone is responsible at the same time. But the great saints allow for no such excuses. They confront us with being keepers of the Garden wherever we are. Wherever we are, they show us, justice must reign, equality must prevail and the defense of the little ones of God must be assured. By us.

It is your voice and mine, alone as well as together, that are meant to raise the alarms. If we don’t point out the breakdowns in human community and make clear the unseen millions in need, they go on being unseen by the many.

There is someone right now, right here, who is crying out for help. Whose voice are you not listening to today?

— Joan Chittister OSB

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,  
1 Timothy 2:1*



**Let us pray together today for the chronically ill:** Sylvia Tasner, Jerry and Albert Vega, Fr. Vega, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, **Maggie and Don Maziarz** and Peter and Leida Fiorito. *In*

*response to Pope Francis’ plea, let us pray together this week and continue to pray intensely, for the success of the October bishops’ Synod on the Family.*

*Blessed are You,  
Creating and Sustaining God!*

## SHALL WE DANCE?

While all our experiences of God are unique, there are characteristics common to all relationships and one of them is all about the child in us. The child that we have left behind very often as we grow but for whom God waits to play awhile again. I wrote a few lines about that when I went for a quiet walk in the forest.



“Where have you been?” asked God.

“Oh, around, around,” I mumbled. “Missed you, said God. “But now that you are here, let me teach you how to dance.”

Indeed, we tend to forget that God longs to dance. Especially at this time, when the burdens of life seem so heavy and there is so much sadness and fear in our world, we need to reclaim the child in us from time to time and the joy and play that still resides deep within us, longing to be released no matter how heavy our pain.

— Edwina Gateley

**Hafiz**, the 14th century Sufi mystic, wrote often about his Beloved (his word for God) inviting us to dance... **14th century, imagine!**

**Fr. Andrew Greeley** often wrote about “the Lord of the Dance” constantly reminding us of His presence and His invitation to joy in His presence...the music for the Lord of the Dance was appropriately used for his funeral procession.

**So, pick up your feet, People of God! Let’s dance!**