



July 24, 2016
Weekly Bulletin
Seventeenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

The Parish of Saint Vincent Ferrer & Saint Catherine of Siena

Dominican Friars – 869 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10065
411 East 68th Street, New York, NY 10065
Call 212.744.2080 or visit www.svsc.info

MASS SCHEDULE

Saint Vincent Ferrer

Sunday Masses
Saturday: 6:00 PM Vigil
Sunday: 8:00 AM, NOON
(solemn), 6:00 PM (sung)

Daily Masses

M – F: 8:00 AM, 12:10 PM,
6:00 PM
Saturday: 8:00 AM

CONFESSION TIMES

M – F: 5:20 PM – 5:50 PM
Wednesday: 7:45 PM – 8:30 PM
Saturday: 5:00 PM – 5:50 PM

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday: 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Saint Catherine of Siena

Sunday Masses
Saturday: 4:00 PM Vigil
Sunday: 10:00 AM, 5:00 PM

Daily Masses

Monday – Friday:
7:00 AM, 5:15 PM
Saturday: 9:00 AM

CONFESSION TIMES

Monday– Friday:
4:40 PM – 5:05 PM
Saturday:
3:30 PM – 3:50 PM

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Thursday: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Parish Contacts and Office Hours

Parish office address:
869 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10065

Parish office hours:
Monday through Friday:
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

PARISH REGISTRATION

We are still collecting Registration forms to create a common parish roster. A short form can be found in the back of the church or in the church offices, it can also be found on the Parish website at www.svsc.info/register. This will provide the Parish Staff with up-to-date contact information for the members of the parish.

PURGATORIAL SOCIETY

Each Friday, the 7 AM Mass at St. Catherine of Siena is offered for the deceased enrolled in the St. Catherine's Purgatorial Society. Enrollment of a deceased family member or friend is available in the church office for \$35.

SPECIAL MASSES FOR THE FEAST OF ST. DOMINIC

On Thursday, August 4, at 7 PM at the Church of St. Vincent Ferrer, a Missa Cantata in the Dominican Rite will be celebrated for the Feast of St. Dominic (extraordinary form calendar). On Monday, August 8, at 12:10 PM, at the Church of St. Vincent Ferrer, a Sung Mass will be celebrated for the Feast of St. Dominic (contemporary calendar). The other regularly scheduled Masses will be take place at both churches on both days.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is a program for adults who wish to become Catholic. Our parish RCIA program will begin in mid-September 2016. Those who are considering enrolling should contact the parish office to set up an appointment with Fr. Innocent Smith, O.P.

MEDICAL MEET & GREET COOKOUT - JULY 24

Dominican Friars Health Care Ministry of New York invites all Health Care Professionals and Students of the Health Professions to the 7th annual Medical Meet & Greet Cookout on Sunday, July 24, 2016, after the 5:00 PM mass at the Church of Saint Catherine of Siena. Join us for burgers, beer, and fellowship - bring a friend or make a new one! RSVP to info@dfhcmny.org or 212.988.8303.

ARCHCARE CARE NAVIGATION CENTER: RESOURCES FOR SENIORS

Need help caring for yourself or someone else but not sure where to turn? ArchCare, the healthcare system of the Archdiocese of New York has a Care Navigation Center staffed by health and social service professionals dedicated to helping people better understand and access the services for which they are eligible. Call 855-951-2273 between 8 AM and 8 PM seven days a week.

LOVE & RESPONSIBILITY SERIES

The Young Adult Outreach Program is excited to announce Love and Responsibility in NYC is back at Immaculate Conception's Outdoor Garden (414 East 14th Street, New York, NY)! Join world-renowned speakers who are flying in from across the country to discuss all things "relationship". We are hosting a live concert EACH WEEK following the discussion with wine! EVENT IS FREE! For more information, visit our website at www.catholicnyc.com

PARISH DIRECTORY AND INFORMATION

DIRECTORY

Parish Office: 212.744.2080

Fax: 212.327.3011

Parish Website:

www.svsc.info

Parish E-mail:

parish@svsc.info

V. Rev. Walter Wagner, O.P.
Pastor

Rev. Joseph Allen, O.P.
Vicar

Rev. Albert Paretsky, O.P.
Vicar

Rev. Jonah Pollock, O.P.
Vicar & Associate Director
of DFHCMNY

Rev. Innocent Smith, O.P.
Vicar

Bro. Damian McCarthy, O.P.
Sacristan

Deacon John M. Powers

Lee Ann Rubino
Business Manager

James D. Wetzel
Director of Music

Lisa Harrelson
Director of Catechesis and
Youth Ministry
St. Catherine of Siena

Dolores Getcher
Child Education
St. Vincent Ferrer

Rachel Miller
Administrative Coordinator
& Assistant to the Pastor

Dominican Shrine of
Saint Jude Office:
212.249.6067

Dominican Shrine of Saint
Jude website:
www.dominicanshrineofsaintjude.org

DFHCMNY office: 212.988.8303

St. Vincent Ferrer High
School: 212.535.4680

Sr. Gail Morgan, O.P.

WELCOME TO THE PARISH OF SAINT VINCENT FERRER AND SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

REGISTRATION

Please register as a member of our parish if this is where you regularly attend Mass. Registration forms are available in the Parish Office or online at www.svsc.info/register.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

To arrange for the baptism of a child, call the Parish Office. Baptisms are usually celebrated on Saturdays, but other arrangements may be made depending upon the circumstances. A baptism preparation class is held at St. Vincent Ferrer on the second Saturday of the month at 12 pm. Please call the Parish Office to register.

SACRAMENTS OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND FIRST RECONCILIATION

Youth participate in the sacramental preparation program coordinated by Lisa Harrelson (lharrelson@svsc.info).

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Youth participate in the sacramental preparation program coordinated by Lisa Harrelson (lharrelson@svsc.info). Adults who have not been confirmed should inquire with the Parish Office about preparing for confirmation.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

To begin making arrangements for a wedding at St. Vincent Ferrer or St. Catherine of Siena, contact the Parish Office to arrange a meeting with a priest. More information is available at www.svsc.info/weddings.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact the Parish Office if you or a loved one would like to receive the Anointing of the Sick at the parish, at a nearby hospital, or at home (for those who are homebound).

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

RCIA is a class for adults interested in becoming Catholic. To learn more, contact Fr. Innocent Smith, OP, at the Parish Office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

For information and/or registration for classes held at St. Vincent Ferrer or St. Catherine of Siena, contact Lisa Harrelson (lharrelson@svsc.info).

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR ADULTS

Parish Study is a program for adults interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. It meets on Tuesday evenings in the Fall and Spring. To learn more, contact the Parish Office or check our website at www.svsc.info.

YOUNG ADULTS

St. Vincent Ferrer often hosts events of the New York Frassati Fellowship. For more information, visit www.frassatiny.com.

FROM FATHER WALTER, O.P., PASTOR

The Seventeenth Sunday of the Year

I write these lines from the Archabbey of St. Meinrad in Indiana. The tranquility and solidity of this place anoint tired souls with a singular balm, equal parts heavenly singing and abundant scrambled eggs and bacon. Last evening, I sat on the porch swing in a red roofed gazebo and read a history of Rome as the crickets sang and the sun set, nice and late. Who could ask for more?

An eponymous town flanks the Archabbey, and it has a parish church, also dedicated to Meinrad. On a walk, I happened by and read the Mass and Confession schedule posted outside, and then the distance of miles and culture fell away and I felt right at home. St. Meinrad Parish in St. Meinrad, Indiana had merged with St. Boniface Parish, in Fulda, Indiana, and there I was, reading the combined schedule of their services. Sound familiar? Here, in the German Catholic heartland two groups of clergy and laity had been summoned together. We do not know the details of their story, but we can imagine.

Up the hill, in the Archabbey Church, the monks process to the image of Our Lady of Einsiedeln (their mother house is the millennium-old Swiss Abbey of Maria Einsiedeln), and before her they sing a litany, asking for vocations to their monastic community. St. Meinrad runs a seminary, a retreat house, has charge of parishes, produces art work in several media, and has a casket making enterprise. In my time here I watched the place turn over twice with new groups coming to live the Gospel and escape the ravages of Pokemon Go. No lack of work here! Jesus promises that the harvest is great but that we must beg for laborers to bring it in.

Until harvest time arrives, the Church in the West continues to contract in its visible aspect. Fewer people are coming to Mass, scarcer resources support church activities, and society listens less readily to church pronouncements. As a matter of observable fact, we are losing ground.

So, we can place ourselves on the long list of groups in our nation and in the world who also perceive that they are losing ground. Sit back now and tally up that list, then ask yourself how do people respond to losing their position? The local and international news provides abundant answers to this query. My question to us as members of the Body of Christ is: shall we go and do likewise? What alternative do we have to letting resentment and suspicion shape our view of the world? Will we let violence be our reaction to the secularization of the world? Will we seek out a scape goat upon whose head we can unload our anxieties?

Christ is in fact the Way, the Truth, the Life, and the Alternative. By dying faithfully, he destroyed death. By losing all his ground with integrity, he opened the way to the new ground God was giving. We can testify to him by making shrinkage an occasion for real growth.

The God of the Resurrection will not fail to bring forth new and abundant life in the Body of His Son.

The monastic life has always communicated this teaching of Christ in the most eloquent way by placing itself at the social and cultural frontier. The monks of St. Meinrad came to Indiana in 1854 to plant their life and to let it foster the Christian culture of the whole region. They made this journey because the Abbey of Einsiedeln seemed at risk of suppression in the wake of the revolutions of 1848. The Trappists at Gethsemane, not very far away from here, could tell a similar story. Here is the paradox. Monks and nuns labor to build places that endure. Land use, architecture, music and the other arts, and all kinds of industry anchor monastic communities into concrete locales like the Swiss Alps or the Indiana Knobs. Yet all these visible things serve a spiritual life woven of prayer, work, and communal living. It is the life of Christ present in and among real people in real time. Throughout the centuries persecution and war have caused monastic men and women to walk away from the work of generations, carrying with them a life that is not bound by centuries.

The life is what matters, and no despot or mob can take it away, even if they confiscate or destroy its splendid appurtenances.

People visit monasteries like this one not just to admire the art or groove on the chant, they come to hear what monks and nuns have always proclaimed to the wider world, generally without any sermon. Rather, the hospitality of the monastery evangelizes. It says, "This beautiful life you see here, visitor, is also in you. You are drawn to it as to a mirror." Monastic life is powerful for its residents and its visitors because it does not talk to them, it forms them, shaping every aspect of their lives.

The world, as it now is, places a demand on our Christianity, that is also an opportunity. Perhaps we can stand before God singing a litany of places: Orlando, St. Paul, Baton Rouge, Dallas, Nice, Istanbul, Yerevan. As we lift up to the Lord these moments where life has been squandered may we ask for the grace to be shaped by faith rather than by the rage bubbling up all around us. Each of us has a choice: to be formed by these images of violence, expressing fear and frustration, or to be formed by the Image of God within. Ultimately the news is showing us the face of despair: we can invite it in and make it ours, or we can become more Christian because Jesus is alive.

Summer Peace!



Fr. Walter, O.P.

JOIN *us* IN PRAYER

SAINT VINCENT FERRER
MASS *Intentions*

SUNDAY, JULY 24

Seventeenth Sunday of
Ordinary time

6:00 pm (Vigil) † *Bayard G. Schaeffer*

8:00 am † *Peter Joseph Jannetta*

NOON † *Mazie Powers*

6:00 pm † *Rene Concepcion*

MONDAY, JULY 25

Weekday

8:00 am *For the People of the Parish*

12:10 pm † *Marie & Jack Powers*

6:00 pm † *Antony Xavier Mendonca*

TUESDAY, JULY 26

Weekday

8:00 am † *Anne & Celia Carrigan*

12:10 pm † *Helen & Charles Hoertkorn*

6:00 pm † *Dr. Rafael Fuentes*

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27

Weekday

8:00 am † *Deceased members of the Parish
& the Order*

12:10 pm † *Mary Catherine Murray*

6:00 pm † *Jorge Miranda*

THURSDAY, JULY 28

Weekday

8:00 am † *Martin Slattery & Joel Crager*

12:10 pm *For a Special Intention*

6:00 pm † *Patricia McNally*

FRIDAY, JULY 29

Weekday

8:00 am † *Rose Marotti*

12:10 pm † *Richard & Frances Reynolds*

6:00 pm † *Livia Andreotti*

SATURDAY, JULY 30

Weekday

8:00 am † *Pat & Alan Thomspen*

6:00 pm † *Claudette Colbert*

SAINT CATHERINE OF
SIENA MASS *Intentions*

SUNDAY, JULY 24

Seventeenth Sunday of
Ordinary time

4:00 pm (Vigil) † *Raymond Martin*

Hicks, III

10:00 am *For the patrons of the Shrine
of Saint Jude*

5:00 pm *Patrick Rojas*

MONDAY, JULY 25

Weekday

7:00 am *For the Province of St. Joseph*

5:15 pm † *Ellen O'Connor*

TUESDAY, JULY 26

Weekday

7:00 am † *Christopher Montgomery*

5:15 pm † *Michelle Holmes*

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27

Weekday

7:00 am *For the intention of
Dr. Leonard Girardi*

5:15 pm † *Lorraine Scully*

THURSDAY, JULY 28

Weekday

7:00 am † *Martin Gerry*

5:15 pm *Maria Cunti*

FRIDAY, JULY 29

Weekday

7:00 am † *St. Catherine of Siena
Purgatorial Society*

5:15 pm † *Jose B. Longo*

SATURDAY, JULY 30

Weekday

9:00 am *For Peace throughout the World*

4:00 pm † *Anna Musico*

PARISH PRAYER *Requests*

Contact the Parish Office at 212.744.2080
or e-mail parish@svsc.info to add a name
to this list.

*Louis Alvarez, Irene Tomoe Cooper, Courtney
Cowart, Rachel Cowart, Suzan Eraslan,
Monica Farren, Tommy Gimbel, Christopher
Heath, Rev. Chris Johnson, O.P., Helen
Johnson, John Kelly, Tony King, Sarah
McDermott, RoseMarie Morace, Stephen
Osso, Vito Quatela, Neel Stallings, Joel Thorpe
& Family, William White, & Shizuko Yoshida.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE of
the souls of *Wayne Rudolph, Ich Sieng, &
Donna Zapalla*, and the souls of all our
recently deceased.

As is our mission, we continue to pray
for the sick, the dying, and their
families in *Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center, NewYork-Presbyterian
Hospital, the Hospital for Special Surgery,
and Rockefeller University Hospital.*

CANDLE *Intentions*

The seven-day candles, which burn in
the lamps before the tabernacle and the
Madonna at the entrance of the
sanctuary, and at the Pieta in St.
Vincent Ferrer are available for an
offering of \$15 each. These lamps are
both an act of devotion and a source of
beauty in our church.

SANCTUARY LAMPS -
ST. VINCENT FERRER

Rene Concepcion (d)

Ramon & Fernando Gonzalez (l)

Anthony Morelliti (l)

William J. Schwede, Jr. (d)

In Thanksgiving to the Holy Souls

In Thanksgiving to St. Joseph

Intention of Donor

SANCTUARY MADONNA

Jack Ryan Keegan (l)

PIETA LAMP

Well-being of Christians in the Middle
East

SANCTUARY LAMPS -

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

The Sanctuary Lamp and the Blessed
Virgin Mary Candle at St. Catherine of
Siena burn for the intentions of any
parishioner or in memory of any of our
deceased. The offering is \$15.00 for one
week, Sunday through Saturday. The
Blessed Virgin Mary Candle is lit for
Priscila Ventigan. The Sanctuary Lamp
is lit for *Sergio & Marilyn Dantis*.

MASS INTENTIONS CAN BE RESERVED IN THE PARISH OFFICE MONDAY THROUGH
FRIDAY, 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM, AND IN THE CHURCH OFFICE OF ST. CATHERINE OF
SIENA MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, 10:00 AM TO 3:00 PM.

TODDLER PLAY GROUP

Registration is now in progress for the September 2016 - June 2017 session of our St. Jean's Toddler Play Group. Space is available in the Monday - Wednesday 10:45 AM Group and the Tuesday - Thursday 10:45 AM Group. Children from 18 months to 4 years are welcome.

We offer a loving atmosphere where the little ones can come and have their first school experience, making new friends and learning how nice it can be to go to school. Call the Director, Pauline Rednock, at 212-472-2853, ext 2 for more information and to arrange a visit.

ST. JOSEPH HILL ACADEMY PRINCIPAL

Founded by the Daughters of Divine Charity, St. Joseph Hill Academy, an all girls High School of approximately 400 students on Staten Island, is seeking a Principal to uphold its mission of preparing its students, academically and spiritually, to become confident young women ready to meet society's challenges. The ideal candidate will be a practicing Roman Catholic with prior relevant experience with school administration, fiscal and strategic planning, and will possess excellent communication skills necessary to interact with the Board of Trustees, faculty, the student body, and the Staten Island community. Candidates should hold a Master's Degree. Please send resumes and cover letters to sisterwilliam@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR A MEANINGFUL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY?

The Ladies of Charity are a diverse group of Catholic women who volunteer to meet the critical needs of those in challenging situations through:
-Engaging in Ministries with flexible time commitments in parishes, nursing homes, child care agencies, and other institutions that care for the marginalized.
-The creation and donation of handmade items for those we serve.
-Providing spiritual and social support for our volunteers.

For more information, or to become a Lady of Charity, please contact us.
Ladies of Charity of the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York
1011 First Avenue, New York, NY 10022
212-371-1000, ext 2542 or loc@archny.org

CHILD PROTECTION

Anyone who needs to report an alleged incident of sexual abuse of a minor by a priest, deacon, religious, or lay person serving in the Archdiocese of New York is asked to contact Sr. Eileen Clifford, O.P. at 212-371-1000, ext. 2949 or Deacon George J. Coppola at 917-861-1762. Both may also be reached via e-mail at victimassistance@archny.org. Information can also be found on the Archdiocesan website, www.archny.org. In keeping with the Archdiocesan policy regarding sexual abuse of minors, this information is provided to ensure that our children remain safe and secure.

The Parish of St. Vincent Ferrer and St. Catherine of Siena

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil

Time	Liturgy	Location
3:30 pm	Confessions	St. Catherine of Siena
4:00 pm	Vigil Mass	St. Catherine of Siena
5:00 pm	Confessions	St. Vincent Ferrer
6:00 pm	Sung Mass	St. Vincent Ferrer

Sunday

8:00 am	Low Mass	St. Vincent Ferrer
10:00 am	High Mass	St. Catherine of Siena
12:00 pm	Solemn Mass	St. Vincent Ferrer
4:30 pm	Parish Vespers Class	St. Vincent Ferrer
5:00 pm	Sung Mass (a capella)	St. Catherine of Siena
5:15 pm	Parish Vespers	St. Vincent Ferrer
6:00 pm	Sung Mass	St. Vincent Ferrer

Monday – Friday

7:00 am	Mass	St. Catherine of Siena
8:00 am	Mass	St. Vincent Ferrer
12:10 pm	Mass	St. Vincent Ferrer
4:40 pm	Confessions	St. Catherine of Siena
5:20 pm	Confessions	St. Vincent Ferrer
5:15 pm	Mass	St. Catherine of Siena
6:00 pm	Mass	St. Vincent Ferrer

Saturday

8:00 am	Mass	St. Vincent Ferrer
9:00 am	Mass	St. Catherine of Siena

THANK YOU
for your continued support of
Saint Vincent Ferrer and
St. Catherine of Siena!
JULY 17, 2016
ST. VINCENT FERRER
Regular Offertory: \$7,199
Attendance: 627
ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA
Regular Offertory: \$3,008
Attendance: 341

DOMINICAN PROVINCE OF SAINT JOSEPH

800th Jubilee ~ Order of Preachers ~ 1216-2016



Dominican Spirituality

The origin of Dominican spirituality begins with priests and then is applied to nuns, sisters, and the laity. It boils down to living an ascetical or penitential life, organized around common and secret prayer, study and contemplation of sacred truth, celebrating daily Mass, community living, and living under perpetual or solemn vows. From this daily life after many years of training, the priest becomes capacitated to give the fruits of his contemplation by preaching, teaching, hearing confessions and giving spiritual direction to individuals. To do all this he needs periods of silence, devotion to the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph, his Dominican saints and blessed together with a great love of the writings of St. Thomas Aquinas. As it was said of one of our brothers, "He studied as if he did not know the meaning of prayer. He prayed as if he did not know the meaning of study. He communicated with his fellow brothers in religious life as if he did not know either prayer or study." Being a man of God and the Church, he does what he can to think with the Church and if he has talent, he often may advance a greater understanding of the Church's teaching on faith and morals.

Doing what he can to help the community, his first apostolate because charity begins at home, the friar also goes outward to others in the world dependent upon his charisms and talents, sent by the Holy Spirit interiorly and by his superiors exteriorly. His vows of poverty, chastity and obedience are meant to inspire him to go beyond the minimum of giving himself to God and the Church bursting forth into acts of generosity and even heroic virtue beyond what is strictly necessary or simply obligatory. He wants to be of help to people in bringing them closer to God, and not merely seek his own salvation.

For others not belonging to the Order of preachers, they too can imitate proportionately in their particular vocation the outlines of this spirituality individually or in a fraternity of like-minded persons.

*~ Fr. Basil Cole, OP · Professor of Moral and Spiritual Theology · Dominican House of Studies,
Washington, DC*



On December 22, 1216, Pope Honorius III formally approved the Order of Preachers (Dominican Order) as a religious order with the mandate to preach for the salvation of souls.

From November 7, 2015 until January 21, 2017, the Dominican Order is celebrating the 800th Jubilee of its founding. Please join us in this wonderful celebration.

For more information, go to: jubilee.opeast.org.



DFHCM of NY

DOMINICAN FRIARS HEALTH CARE
MINISTRY OF NEW YORK

Reflections on Ethics, Faith & Health Care

EDITOR: FR. JONAH POLLOCK, O.P., S.T.L.

JESUS FEEDS the MULTITUDE: a Reflection for Ministers of Communion

By Fr. Jonah Pollock, O.P., S.T.L., Associate Director, Dominican Friars Health Care Ministry of New York

BRINGING HOLY COMMUNION TO THE SICK is an important part of Catholic health care ministry. In this reflection, we will consider the gospel accounts of Jesus feeding the multitude in order to deepen our understanding of what this ministry is all about.

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN makes a profound connection between Jesus' miraculous feeding of the multitude and Jesus' feeding his people with his body and blood in the Eucharist. In the beginning of chapter six, Saint John gives his account of the multiplication of the loaves and fish. This provides the background for Jesus' famous discourse on the bread of life. After the miraculous feeding, when the crowds follow Jesus across the sea, he observes, "I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled" (John 6:26). He then exhorts them, "Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you" (John 6:27). He goes on to say, "I am the living bread that come down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world" (John 6:51). In John's gospel, the miraculous feeding with "food that perishes" introduces his disciples to the Eucharistic food, his own body and blood, "that endures for eternal life."

THE OTHER THREE GOSPELS make the same connection in a different way. Unlike John's, Matthew, Mark and Luke's gospels all include accounts of Jesus instituting the Eucharist at the Last Supper. In each of those accounts, Jesus is described as doing four things before telling his disciples, "This is my body." He took bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it. In their accounts of Jesus' miraculous feeding of the crowds, the evangelists use the very same words. In Luke, for example, we read, "Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing over them, broke them, and gave them to his disciples to set before the crowd" (Luke 9:16). The evangelists' parallel use of these four verbs in recounting Jesus' feeding the multitude and his institution of the Eucharist is striking. Once again, Jesus' miraculous feeding points to the miracle of the Eucharist.

THE CONNECTION between Jesus' feeding of the multitude and his gift of the Eucharist allows us to draw on the accounts of the former to better understand the latter. What we read about Jesus feeding the multitude can deepen our appreciation of how Jesus feeds us with his body and blood. This can be especially fruitful for those of us who serve as ministers of Holy Communion, whether at Mass or to the sick and disabled in their homes or health care facilities. Let us consider a few examples.

"When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd" (Mark 6:34). Saint Mark's words describe the tenderness and love that motivate Jesus' miraculous feeding. It is with the same pity and the same purpose that Jesus feeds his people with his body and blood in the Eucharist. Communion is a gift of merciful love. Every time someone worthily receives the Lord in this Blessed Sacrament, Jesus acts as the Good Shepherd, gathering that person more securely into the sheepfold of his Church.

"There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves" (Matt 14:16). With these words, Jesus enlists his disciples in the work of feeding the multitude. Jesus could have done this without their help. Nevertheless, Jesus' wanted to involve them in his miraculous feeding. In the same way, Jesus wants to involve his disciples in feeding his people in Holy Communion. Those whom the Church ordains and commissions as ministers of Holy Communion are chosen by Jesus to be his instruments in feeding the hungry crowd with his body and blood.

"When they had had their fill, he said to the disciples, 'Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted'" (John 6:12). Jesus instructs his disciples to collect the remaining fragments. In the accounts in Matthew, Mark and Luke, we read that those fragments filled twelve wicker baskets. Jesus had his disciples take care that everything was preserved and nothing wasted. How much more care should we show for every fragment of the bread of life that is Jesus himself?