

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, August 1, 2021
18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle B

A man who had lost his wife never quite recovered from his loss. After many years of being a widower, he still visited her grave every week and each time, spent at least an hour talking to her and tending the plot of flowers he had planted around her grave. One of his friends, upon witnessing such extraordinary devotion maintained over the years, finally asked him why he was still so deeply affected by the death of his wife. The widower explained why with these simple words, “she was my bread.” And that, from his point of view, said everything. For just as bread formed the essential, basic food in his diet, likewise his wife had been the central ingredient in his life when she was still alive.

“She was my bread”. These words from the widower reflects not just the physical hunger but the deeper hunger that we all desire to be satisfied. Our need for the true bread, Jesus himself. We may have everything but without God in us we will never be satisfied.

Jesus defined himself as “the bread of life,” namely, the essential basic ingredient which confers life to those who partake of it through faith in Him and love of neighbor. Today would be a good occasion to ask ourselves a simple but essential question, “Is Jesus Christ really my bread?”

In other words, is Jesus Christ the support of my life, that gives to everything I think and do, the central and basic reality of my existence? If we can answer a resounding “Yes!” to the question, then our lives are a great success, whatever the rest of the world might think. Why is that? Because, as he himself explains, “no one who comes to me shall ever be hungry, no one who believes in me shall thirst again”. Once we have found Christ, we discover that nothing else which the world offers can compare with what we have found. For we have found the bread of life, the one thing capable of satisfying our deepest hunger and our deepest thirst.

Amen