

Aug. 1, 2021 John 6: 24-35. Ex. 16:2-4, 12-15

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ENTERING THE SCENE:

Fr. Beck asks: "What is it we hunger for? Many things. To be treated with dignity, to be recognized for our worth. For a place in the world. For a society that gives each his or her due.....It is seen in the society around us, where seekers are everywhere, and the longing for spiritual substance is almost tangible, all the more for the frustration of not finding it where it is expected to be." These words ring with a special urgency these days as we attempt to live into the challenges in a world of chaos and complexity. We like the people in this text think we knew what God wanted and how it should always be so. We join them now in pleading for a sign that we are on the right track. We come again to the table of the bread of life in order to never be hungry again.

John 6: 24-35

24 Once the crowd **realized** that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in **search** of Jesus. 25 When they **found** him on the **other side** of the lake, they asked him, "**Rabbi**, when did you get here?" 26 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, you are **looking** for me, not because you saw **miraculous signs** but because you ate the loaves and **had your fill**. 27 Do not work for food that **spoils**, but for food that **endures to eternal life**, which the Son of Man will **give** you. On him God the Father has placed his **seal of approval**." 28 Then they asked him, "What must we do to **do the works** God requires?" 29 Jesus answered, "The **work of God** is this: to **believe** in the one he has sent." 30 So they asked him, "What **miraculous sign** then will you give that we may **see** it and **believe** you? What will you do? 31 Our **forefathers** ate the **manna** in the desert; as it is written: 'He gave them **bread from heaven** to eat.' "32 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not **Moses** who has given you the **bread from heaven**, but it is my Father who gives you the true **bread from heaven**. 33 For the **bread of God** is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." 34 Sir," they said, "from now on **give** us this bread." 35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the **bread of life**. He who comes to me will never go **hungry**, and he who **believes** in me will never be **thirsty**."

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Something spoils when it isn't used in a timely manner. Is there anything that you worked for that spoiled this past week?

PRAYER: Jesus, I come to the altar each time looking to be fed with the 'bread of life' you promised. Too often I come distracted by the many things in my life that spoil my awareness of this great gift you are offering me. Help me to grow in my ability to fully appreciate the miraculous food that you give so freely. Amen.