

**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John  
Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ,  
July 25, 2021**

**FEEDING THE HUNGRY**



This Sunday's readings tell us the number of people fed by Elisha and by Jesus in the past. Today, Jesus Christ is doing even greater things. His numbers are far larger than those in our Gospel.

Through his Church, his living presence on earth, Jesus is feeding, not thousands of people, but millions of hungry people. The Lord is working through organizations such as Catholic Charities and Catholic Relief Services, and through food pantries in local parishes.

Yet, Jesus does more than feed people with food. Jesus feeds people with his word proclaimed in the liturgy, preached by missionaries, taught by catechists, spread through social media, and passed on from one generation of faithful Christians to the next. His word has been heard by billions of people during the past 2,000 years.

Through the priests of his Church, Jesus makes himself present in the bread placed upon the altars of churches throughout the world. In the Eucharist, he does far more than give bread to 5,000 people as he did in the Gospel. He gives his very Body and Blood in Holy Communion to millions and millions of people who come to Sunday Mass. As we proclaim in Sunday's Responsorial Psalm, "The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs."

This Sunday's readings make us realize that Jesus is feeding many hundreds of millions of people today, both spiritually and materially, through his Church

In your service, prayerfully.

Father John Carlos