



## Things to Ponder

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### John 6:1-15 - Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today we begin a month-long meditation on the sixth chapter of the Gospel according to St. John - the "bread of life discourse" the heart and soul of our Catholic worship. We begin this reflection with the story of the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes. Jesus' heart was moved with pity for the hungry souls that had followed him.

There are many hungry souls who drive past this Church on a daily basis; yet many do not know the source of their hunger.

Not too many years ago, a woman visited the parish office where I was the pastor to address just such a longing. She drove past the church on a daily basis; gradually, she experienced a desire to know more about the Catholic faith. She had been an ardent Baptist and was married to a fallen-away Catholic. She said to herself and to God that she was looking for a sign. The next day the RCIA director placed just such a sign in front of the Church. It simply invited the curious to call the office. That was all this woman needed!

On the day of her visit, the Eucharist was exposed on the altar. When led into the Church for the first time, this inquirer was awe-struck. She had found Him for whom she had been longing all her life!

I received an e-mail recently from another non-Catholic who related a similar story. She had been in conversation with a friend at a restaurant about her Church. She was rather unhappy. The Catholic at another table overheard this woman and begged to interrupt. She simply invited the disgruntled woman to try St. Patrick's. She did and was grateful for the welcoming atmosphere!

Who do you know who is just waiting for an invitation to the banquet of God's love?

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Rev. Bill Foley*

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