



Things to Ponder

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Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – August 9, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Twelve years ago, I was in the midst of intense training in preparation to run the first of the seven marathons that I have completed. I learned very early in the process that my ability to run long distances was directly related to the proper combination of rest, nutrition and hydration. The prophet Elijah was on a journey to the mountain of God at Horeb. His energy seemed to be totally sapped. He prayed for death; but twice an *angel of the Lord* provided him with food for the journey. Jesus recalled for his fellow Jews how God had fed their ancestors with *manna* to enable them to reach the *Promised Land*. He went on to say:

“I am the living bread that came 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)

One of the key assertions of our faith is that at every Eucharistic celebration we receive this *real presence* of the living God; but even more powerful is the realization that the saving action of God in human history is made present and transforms us here and now:

“What the Eucharist makes present is not an iconic Christ to be adored or even consumed, but the reality of Christ’s dying and rising as an event within which we are invited to participate.”
(Rolheiser, *One Great Act of Fidelity*, p. 59)

The Greek word for this kind of *memory* which is a *making present* is *anamnesis*. We have an obligation to participate in the Eucharist on Sundays and Holydays; otherwise, we might forget God’s love and fall into despair. The opposite of *anamnesis* is *amnesia*!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Bill Foley

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