

## Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

In our First Reading we find the Israelites in the desert, grumbling for the lack of food. Had they stayed in captivity in Egypt, they were assured food. But now their wandering brings doubt and diminishing faith in Moses and God. After hearing their complaining God enters in and gives instructions to Moses: Notice: “each day the people are to gather *their daily portion*” of bread” from heaven. They are not to store up the food, but rather they are to restore their faith in God who will provide their “daily” bread.

As we continue to investigate the Gospel of John, we hear again about the crowd demanding food. In his impatience Jesus admonishes them to stop searching for the perishable food, but search for the food that is eternal. Once again, the crowd are senseless. While they claim to be disciples of Jesus, they clearly do not get the message. So, they ask: “What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you?” If we need a “sign” for proof, what does that say about our faith? For John the Gospel writer, it’s beyond “signs”. It’s about the revelation of GOD, Jesus himself IS the sign, He IS the saving Bread, he IS the Son of GOD. John has him using the famous “I AM” statement: I AM the way the truth and the life; I AM the Light of the world; I AM the bread of Life.

Can we step beyond the crowd and look deeper into the Christ? Can we resist the need to demand “Signs”? or are we just like the crowd? Sure, I am a disciple of Jesus, but what was that again? Can you give me a Sign????