

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 08/01/21

“The whole Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, ‘Would that we had died at the Lord’s hand in the land of Egypt, as we sat by our fleshpots and ate our fill of bread.’”

Even after everything the Lord had done in their presence to vanquish their enemies, after a little tribulation, the Israelites were ready to give up and go back into slavery in Egypt.

For many years now we have been undergoing many challenges in the Church, for many of us it has been like wandering in the desert, and sadly many people have given up and walked away.

Like the Israelites who wanted to go back to Egypt for worldly bread to satisfy their immediate needs and desires many Catholics have left the Church and certainly some to satisfy their own worldly needs and desires.

But we are still here. Even if we struggle from time-to-time to live perfectly Church teaching we haven’t given up. We are still trying.

But just as the time of upheaval for the Israelites did not go unnoticed by heaven so our Lord is fully aware of what is happening in our time as well. In fact he sent His Mother many times to warn us.

On one occasion in particular, back in the 60's, our Lady told some visionaries in Spain that a time will come when it will seem as if communists have taken over the whole world. Sound familiar?

She said it will be very hard to practice the Faith, for priests to say Mass, or for people to even open the doors of their churches.

For many it will seem like the Church has disappeared. Many people will stop practicing the faith but for those who do they will have to go into hiding.

We're not in hiding yet but we did get a taste of what it could become when our churches were closed and in many cases Catholics were denied the other Sacraments as well during the Covid-19 scare. I hope we remember this and fight hard so that it will never happen again.

The Lord provided for the needs of the Israelites in the desert and he provides for our needs even more.

Jesus said, "Amen, Amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven, my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

He promised, whoever comes to him will never hunger, and whoever believes in him never thirst but he wasn't referring here to our natural needs and desires.

At Holy Mass our Lord truly gives us his body, blood, soul and divinity as food.

We cannot truly live without this supernatural nourishment and more specifically we cannot live eternally without him.

St. Padre Pio once said that the world could more easily exist without the sun than it could without the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Jesus is the true bread that came down from heaven and he will provide for all our needs.

He took care of the Israelites starving in the desert then and he will take care of us in our own desert today.