

## 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, 8-5-18

Have two stories about God feeding his people with manna from heaven for the Israelites in the desert and Jesus' miraculous feeding of the 5,000. John's gospel continues this week with the amazing statement by Jesus: "I AM the bread of life." The Christ is our life. Paul reminds us that we to let "our grumbles crumble" and get on with life in Christ. **"You must put on that new man/woman created in God's image, whose justice and holiness are born of truth."**

The word *manna* is roughly translated *what is it?* That was the question the people of Israel asked when it appeared in the morning. The quail in the evening needed no such explanation. Jesus' statement *I am the bread of life* will need much explanation in John's gospel. But in short form, Paul nails it when he says we are the body of Christ, called to feed the world, with justice, holiness and truth.

This week we mark the anniversary of the only time in history that nuclear weapons have ever been used. On August 6<sup>th</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup>, 1945, nuclear bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing over 225,000 people. 20-25 thousand who died were military personnel. Hopefully, it will be the last.

In April of 1953 U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower delivered a speech entitled "The Chance for Peace." He said:

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. ... This is not a way of life at all, in any true sense."

Ike went on to note 5 concrete ways to make the choice for peace happen. It would take world wide cooperation of our nations of the world. To feed the world we have to be committed to peace, locally and globally.

As we receive and ponder the bread of life, the cup of salvation in the Eucharist, we ask ourselves how to bring bread and peace to our world that hungers for both. It begins with the recognition that we all are children of God and we all hunger for bread and peace.

God is good...all the time. Let us follow God's son.