



## *Reflection from Ben Babaran*

The Gospel for this Sunday is the only miracle that is included in all the four canonical gospels: Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:31-44; Luke 9:12-17; John 6:1-14. It is that important to the Christian life and mission.

There are many important lessons we can learn from the miracle on the mountain. I would like to share three of them as they relate to our family's special event last Saturday, the 17th of July, the wedding of our daughter Angela and her husband, Miguel.

The miracle was a banquet of love. Jesus said, "Have the people recline." The point is what my parents inculcated in me growing up – the Filipino hospitality. When anybody come to you, you sit them down, make them feel at home, and you share with them what you have. It is in the sharing that the guest or visitor will realize that the world is full of love. The miracle made strangers, unknown to each other, share in the banquet of love. In like manner, at the wedding, guests and friends shared in two banquets of love: The Holy Eucharist and the Sacrament of Matrimony.

The generosity of the boy became the motivation of a great miracle for his community. From two fish and five loaves, the community was blessed with twelve more baskets of food. God works with what we have. Trusting that God will work with what we have, we prayed that the pastries and food we brought for the rehearsal dinner, the wedding reception and the Sunday brunch would be enough. It turned out like the miracle in the mountain with relatives and friends going home with "To Go" containers of food.

Moved with compassion, Jesus replicated the miracle of Elisha in the first reading. He was sensitive to their need and situation. Christ cares for our needs both physically and spiritually. Likewise, he fed Angela and Miguel with His own body in the Eucharist and through all those present, in person as well as virtually, he blessed them with the loving support of their families, relatives and friends.

We are Eucharistic people, called to love and to be compassionate and generous. May Christ work miracles in us and through us.

*~ Peace,*

*Ben*