

Share Your Bread with the Hungry (Isaiah 58:7)

This fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, the liturgy of the Word, I would like to focus my reflection on the first reading from the prophet Isaiah, “Thus says the Lord: Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own” (Isaiah 58: 7). God’s Words through prophet Isaiah about 700 years before Jesus was born that is also relevant to us today.

Encyclical Letter *Deus Caritas Est* of the Supreme Pontiff, Pope Benedict XVI said, “The Church’s deepest nature is expressed in her three-fold responsibility: of proclaiming the word of God (*kerygma-martyria*), celebrating the sacraments (*leitourgia*), and exercising the ministry of charity (*diakonia*)” (*Deus Caritas Est* #25). Charitable activity has always been urgent and necessary for the Church throughout the ages. The Church always offers many things to help the poor, the lonely, and the helpless. The mission of the Church is always close to them to bring mercy and the love of God to everyone.

The COVID pandemic has caused a disaster for humanity, but in difficult times, we see that many organizations and individuals have contributed materially and spiritually to help sick people. The Church always does its mission and finds many best ways to companion with people as Saint Paul said in the letter to 2 Corinthians “for you know the gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that for your sake he became poor although he was rich, so that by his poverty you might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9).

I thank almighty God that I have a good opportunity to work at Catholic Charities in Manchester, and to see that there are many people who are volunteers to help people. I realize that we are closer to those who are poor and homeless, and that it is our mission to bring His mercy to everyone.

We pray to God that will have many generous people who really help and walk with those who are in need. Each of us Christians has a mission which is to help other people in our ability so people will realize the love of God who is always among us. May God bless and be with them always.