

## Fr. O'Connor's Homily – July 29, 2018

One day a middle-aged woman came into the midst of a city where there was terrible poverty and cruelty. She took it all in and then said to herself, “Something’s got to be done.” She had heard a call from God.

She took all the money she had and rented an old building with a dirt floor. The building wasn’t much but it would do.

The next day the woman went around the neighborhood and offered to teach the children. She used the old building as her schoolroom. She had no desks, no chairs, no tables. Her chalkboard was the dirt floor. She rubbed it smooth with an old rag and wrote on it with a stick.

That was the way the woman fought back against the poverty and cruelty around her. It was a pathetic response but it was the best she could do.

Whatever happened to the woman and her undertaking? Over time it grew into more than 80 fully equipped schools, 300 modern dispensaries, 70 leprosy clinics, 30 homes for the dying, 30 homes for abandoned children and 40,000 volunteers, worldwide. Of course I am referring to Mother Teresa.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus takes five loaves of bread and two fishes and the five thousand are fed and there are leftovers.

We live in a very strange world dominated by money e.g. savings and insurance and securities etc.,etc. But suppose God put all of us on earth at that same time so that we could be there for one another. That’s the spirit of today’s Gospel. That’s the spirit of our faith.

Most of us get mail everyday with pictures and stories of starving children and mothers. Often they haunt us. Sometimes they may anger us.

But try to take today’s Gospel to heart. Read it, pray over it. Ask yourself what is the Gospel asking of me. And thank God that you have been able to be generous over and over again.

Now let us rejoice in the great sharing- Jesus sharing with us His own Body and Blood in the Eucharist.