

Commentary Chapter 33

A Figure of the Holy Eucharist. The great miracle of the loaves and fishes is one of the most striking figures of the Blessed Eucharist. In the miracle of the loaves and fishes Jesus fed 5000, in Holy Communion the Savior of the world nourishes the souls of countless millions of His faithful people.

St. John Bosco on two occasions also multiplied things. Once it was chestnuts, he had gotten some chestnuts to give to the boys at his oratory as a treat. However, there were a lot more boys than chestnuts. So, St. John Bosco put them in a bag and then reached his hand in the bag and gave each boy a handful. He continued to bring out one handful after another until every boy had received a full handful. The second time it was Holy Communion. It was a Feast Day and many of the boys had been preparing to receive Holy Communion with a greater devotion on that day. They had gone to confession the day before and were all at Mass fasting and ready to receive Our Lord. St. John Bosco was offering Mass, but due to an oversight the sacristan forgot to put out a ciborium for him to consecrate. When St. John Bosco came to the time of distribution of Communion, he opened the tabernacle and found that there was only one ciborium with less than 20 hosts, and there were about 300 to go to Communion. There was no way he could break the hosts into that many pieces. He said a prayer and began to distribute Communion, all the boys were able to receive and there were still some to be put back in the Tabernacle. Other saints such as the Cure of Ars also at times multiplied the food source for schools or orphanages who couldn't afford to buy more for the children there. We see that the love of Our Lord continues and is also for each one of us. He watches out for us the same way He did for those 5,000 who followed Him into the wilderness to hear His preaching. If we seek to know and follow the will of God, He will help us.

The power of our Lord over His body. Our Lord by walking on the water shows He can do things that normally bodies cannot do, this combined with the miraculous multiplication of the loaves helps to understand what Our Lord is about to teach. That He is going to give His body and blood for us to eat and drink that we may be nourished spiritually. He can give us His body under the appearance of bread, and He can multiply it so that there is always more than enough for all.