

God Can Work Wonders From Our Poor Efforts

Five loaves and two fish cannot feed a crowd of five thousand men, plus at least as many women and children. It is impossible! Not even a year's salary could buy enough for such a feast, as Philip nervously points out.

And yet, when the Apostles hand over their paltry resources to the Lord, they become more than enough to do the job. *THE SAME GOES FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN, INCLUDING US.*

The mission we have received – the mission of becoming saints, the mission of using our gifts and talents to help others lead fulfilled and fulfilling lives, the mission of being bright torches in this dark world, torches that guide searching souls towards the hope of heaven – this mission is beyond our natural capacities.

We only have five loaves and two fish; by ourselves we can do nothing. Only if we put all we have and all we are into Christ's hands, confiding in him and not ourselves, can we hope to fulfill our life mission and make a real difference for the good of the Kingdom ... as well as in our hearts and in society at large.

What we could never achieve on our own, we can immeasurably surpass with God. As Jesus himself put it, "For God, everything is possible" (Matthew 19:26).

Fr. Peter Nhat Hoang

REFLEXIONES DEL PADRE PEDRO

Dios Puede Hacer Maravillas de Nuestros Pobres Esfuerzos

Cinco panes y dos peces no pueden alimentar a una multitud de cinco mil hombres, mas mujeres y niños. Es imposible! Ni el salario de un año podría ser suficiente para comprar para tal fiesta, así como Felipe lo subraya.

Y aún, cuando los apóstoles entregan al Señor sus recursos miserables, se convierten en mas que suficiente para hacer el trabajo. *LO MISMO VA PARA CADA CRISTIANO, INCLUIDOS NOSOTROS.*

La misión que hemos recibido — la misión de llegar a ser santos, la misión de usar nuestros dones y talentos para ayudar a los demás, conlleva plenamente y llenando vidas, la misión de ser antorchas brillantes en estemundo de oscuridad, antorchas que guíen almas hacia la esperanza del cielo — esta misión es por encima de nuestra capacidad natural.

Nosotros solo tenemos cinco panes y dos pescados; nosotros mismos no podemos hacer nada. Solo si ponemos todo lo que tenemos y todos lo que somos en las manos de Cristo, confiando en el, y no en nosotros mismos, podemos tener la esperanza de cumplir nuestra misión en la vida, y hacer una diferencia real para el bien del Reino ... así como también en nuestro corazón y en la sociedad.

Lo que no podríamos nunca lograr por nuestro propio esfuerzo, con Dios podremos superarlo inconmesuradamente. Así como Jesus mismo lo pone, "Para Dios, todo es posible" (Mateo 19:26).

Padre Pedro Nhat Hoang

NEXT Summer Faith & Film Night:

July 29 @ 5:30pm
St. Mark Youth Room
 (in Parish Center)

Bring a sack dinner — popcorn provided!



WHERE'S THE BEEF ?? — At St. Catherine in Veneta!! Annual Fern Ridge BBQ, on Sunday, **July 29**, noon—5pm. Their Sunday Masses will be one hour earlier than usual! Good family fun in a beautiful setting, with music (Coupe deVille), raffles, auction, bingo, and Show Cars. \$15/adult, \$13/senior (62yo and older), \$7/12yo and under. St. Catherine of Siena is at: 25181 E. Broadway, Veneta. More info at: fernridgebeefpitbbq.com, or 541-935-3933.

It's HOT !!

Cool off helping out with the sprinkler system at St. Mark! There's lots of help needed to maintain the system/sprinkler heads — and with the hot weather, we sure need to keep the lawns and flower beds watered. Contact Lonnie or Dinah at the St. Mark office (541-689-0725) or send an email to: saintmark1760@hotmail.com Just let us know when you are available, and we'll work with your schedule! Many thanks!

UPCOMING RETREATS:

JOURNEY TOGETHER IN HOPE — Join for a weekend of fellowship, prayer and fun for people who have disabilities and their families, at Aldergate Camp (Turner, OR), **August 24-26**. To learn more, contact Kelsey Rea: krea@archdpdx.org, or specialneeds.archdpdx.org, or 503-233-8399..

WOMEN'S RETREAT: "PASSING THE FAITH ON TO THE NEXT GENERATION" — This retreat is hosted by St. Benedict Lodge ((56630 North Bank Rd, McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413) on **Sept. 14-16**. Speakers will be Sr. Lilly Fitzpatrick, OP, and Sr. Patrick Kearney, OP. Cost is \$100/person for private room, and \$90/person for a shared room. Please send a \$30 deposit to register, to the above address. To learn more, call 541-822-3572, or go to website: sbldodge.opwest.org..



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Link your Rewards Card to St. Mark! By linking your Rewards Card to a non-profit agency (aka St. Mark), a certain percentage of your dollars spent at Fred Meyer will be donated to the church — it's a great way to give a little bit extra!! Just use the Rewards website (www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards) and enroll in this program. The NPO # for St. Mark is 83419. **Questions? Call 1-866-518-2686** (toll free).