



ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

11856 MAYS CHAPEL RD., TIMONIUM, MD 21093

Laetare Sunday, Lent IV, March 18th, 2012

*...He saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?
And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.*

**✠ In The Name of The Father and of The Son
and of The Holy Ghost. Amen. ✠**

When I was studying Logic, one of our sessions dealt with the fallacy: *post hoc ergo propter hoc*, or “after this therefore because of this. “ Just because things happen in sequence doesn’t necessarily mean that there is a causal relationship. However, things work that way often enough that we can set up a working hypothesis of cause and effect, although we can’t be logically sure that there is a relationship.

In fact, that is the way we learn most things. I did this and frequently that happened. What is there about doing this that might bring that about?

Problem is that when the really big and important things happen, we find that we don’t recollect the situation and the circumstances which may have led to their happening. We weren’t tuned into what was really going on. Similarly, we miss the truly meaningful because our attention was diverted to the frivolous or unimportant.

In today’s Gospel reading, Jesus calls Philip’s attention to the reality of his present situation so that Philip may more clearly grasp the miraculous nature of what is about to occur. There are

five thousand people who need to be fed. Philip's response is to address the earthly problem of buying bread for them, but there is not enough money to do that. Philip is in a position where he realizes that his earthly mindset is incapable of dealing with his situation. Now, he can truly understand that Jesus feeding of the five thousand is based on divine, not earthly, power.

Saint Benedict of Nursia in setting up his school for the Lord's service, in The Rule, devotes much attention to developing humility in the monastic brothers. Humility is not so much low self esteem, as it is knowing the truth about ourselves. Only when we are aware of our real situation can we open ourselves, our minds and hearts, to Him who is infinitely greater than ourselves. Only when we stop listening to the falsities of the worldly and the fantasies of our imagination can we listen in *Obedience* to the still small voice that *is* and always *has been* with us.

O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we

shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength; By the might of thy Spirit lift us we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.