

BLESSED, BROKEN GIVEN

A PARENT PRAYER GUIDE

Matthew 14:14-19

When he disembarked and saw the vast throng, his heart was moved with pity, and he cured their sick. As evening drew on, his disciples came to him with the suggestion: "This is a deserted place and it is already late. Dismiss the crowds so that they may go to the villages and buy some food for themselves." Jesus said to them: "There is no need for them to disperse. Give them something to eat yourselves." "We have nothing here," they replied, "but five loaves and a couple of fish." "Bring them here," he said. Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and two fish, looked up to heaven, **blessed** and **broke** them and **gave** the loaves to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the people."



THE HEART OF THIS YEAR'S NCYC IS THE EUCHARISTIC SPIRITUALITY OF OUR CHURCH. WE BELIEVE IN THE TRUE PRESENCE OF CHRIST IN THE EUCHARIST– NOT A SYMBOL, OR A SIGN, BUT THAT CHRIST IS TRULY PRESENT, AND FAITH HELPS US LIVE THIS MYSTERY EVEN “WHEN OUR HUMAN SENSES FAIL” (ST. THOMAS AQUINAS.) WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT WE BECOME HIS BODY IN THE WORLD UPON RECEIVING THE EUCHARIST: BLESSED, BROKEN AND GIVEN. THIS ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS – RECEIVING HIM INTO OUR OWN BODY AND BLOOD – HAS A RIPPLE EFFECT ON THE WHOLE WORLD. HE TAKES THE BREAD, BLESSES, BREAKS AND GIVES IT TO US FOR OUR SALVATION. BECAUSE OF THIS GREAT LOVE, WE ARE ABLE AND MIRACULOUSLY WILLINGLY TO TAKE OUR OWN LIVES, ALLOWING THEM TO BE BLESSED, BROKEN AND GIVEN OUT OF LOVE.

FOR YOUR REFLECTION:


Like the bread taken by Jesus, we are chosen by God, selected for a unique role to play in God's story. And as we recognize that we have been chosen, so also we recognize the chosen-ness of all people.

Like the bread blessed by Jesus, we, too, are blessed by God. We are called to claim our blessing and to bless others as we live each day.

Like the bread broken by Jesus, we also are broken in so many ways...in our bodies and in our hearts, in our homes and in our world. Jesus asks us to take up our cross, to claim our unique brokenness, and to join it with our blessing as we move into service to others who hurt.

Like the bread given by Jesus, we also are given. Each of our lives is a gift to those close to us: family, friends, those we serve, as well as to people we will never know. God has given each one of us as a sacred gift to the world.

Consider how you have been blessed, broken and given through your role as a parent? How have you been changed by the vocation of parent? How have you come to know Jesus by parenting your child?

 *We invite you, each day, while your child is on pilgrimage to do the following three things in unity with our group in Indianapolis:*

1. **BLESSED:** *Take a pause in each day to reflect on your gratitude and the many ways you are blessed. Offer a prayer of blessing over your child AND someone else you know in the NCYC group.*

2. *BROKEN: We are all broken because we are not perfect; we are just human. Some of us are broken in small, manageable ways and some of us need far greater strength and patience to face our struggles. Offer a prayer for yourself for someone in your life who is struggling with his or her own brokenness. How might you be a source of love and healing?*

3. *GIVEN: How will you serve the mission of Jesus today through your words, actions or attitude. As your child is encountering a new door to his or her relationship with Christ, we invite you to do the same. While your child is on pilgrimage, how might you put Christ before you in your day and LIVE the Eucharist through your interactions with others.*

Have a chat with your son or daughter about how you met this challenge, when the pilgrims return for Indianapolis How can you continue to meet this challenge as a family?

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In every human encounter, in every moving experience of nature, in every apparent coincidence, in every challenge, every suffering, there is a hidden message from God to us. ”

(YouCat20)

How might your eyes be open to the message so that you, too, can go on a pilgrimage toward a deeper relationship with Christ while your son or daughter is at NCYC?

Please visit oec.dor.org/youth-ministry/ncyc to follow our pilgrimage virtually and connect with our travels!

Prayer for our NCYC pilgrims (adapted from the Official Prayer for American Pilgrims from the USCCB)

God our Father, Be with our pilgrims on their journey of faith.

Give them the grace and courage to step forward in faith and hope
on the road ahead.

Lord Jesus,

Open their eyes to see your face in all those they encounter. Open their ears to hear your voice in those who are often ignored. Open their hearts that they might be faithful disciples of mercy and truth. Holy Spirit, Transform them. Empower them to give of ourselves to the poor; to welcome the lost; to forgive those who hurt them; to comfort those who suffer.

Bless those who travel to the National Catholic Youth Conference.
Amen.

St. James the Apostle, patron of pilgrim travelers, pray for us.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha, young faithful witness from our state, pray for
us.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux, patroness of missionaries and advocate for
youth, pray for us.

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, man of the beatitudes and patron of
young adults, pray for us.