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Today's Gospel, Matthew 15:29-37, struck me in a profound way as I reflected on the work we do at the St. Margaret of Castello Family Center (MOCFC). In the Gospel, Jesus sees the hunger of the crowd and feels deep compassion for them. Despite having only seven loaves and a few fish, He blesses the food, multiplies it, and ensures that everyone is fed. This passage reminds us that no matter how little we feel we have to offer, God can transform it into abundance when we act with love and faith.

This Gospel couldn't have been more fitting for the first Mass held in the St. Jude Chapel at the MOCFC. Fr. Luke presided over the Mass, and its intention was for the volunteers and beneficiaries of the center. I couldn't help but feel that it was God's will for this Gospel to be proclaimed on this special occasion. It was as if He wanted to remind us that the work we do here is directly tied to His mission of caring for His people.

During the homily, Fr. Luke made beautiful parallels between the Gospel and the mission of the MOCFC. Just as Jesus recognized the needs of the crowd and provided for them, the volunteers at the center see the needs of the families who come through our doors—whether for diapers, formula, clothes, or food—and respond with love and compassion. It is an incredible testament to the work of Christ being alive in our community.

Fr. Luke also pointed out how Jesus took what was available, blessed it, and used it to meet the needs of thousands. This is exactly what happens at the MOCFC. Every donation, no matter how small, becomes part of something greater. Every moment of time given by our volunteers, every item shared by our donors, is multiplied by God to care for the families we serve.

As I sat in that chapel, reflecting on the Gospel and on the work we've accomplished together, I was overwhelmed with gratitude. Gratitude for the volunteers who show up to serve, for the families who trust us to help them, and for the grace of God that sustains this mission. This Mass felt like a sacred reminder that the MOCFC is not just a place for material support—it is a place where God's love is made visible.

I hope that as we continue these monthly Masses, we remember the lesson of today's Gospel. Even when we feel tired or think we don't have enough to offer, God is working through us. He blesses our efforts and uses them to meet the needs of His people.

May the work of the MOCFC continue to reflect the compassion of Christ, and may we all be inspired to bring what we have—our time, our talents, our love—to be multiplied for the good of others.

Thank you to everyone who makes this mission possible. Together, we are living out the Gospel in a beautiful and tangible way.

