

Tuesday after Epiphany

Gospel text (Mk 6, 34-44): As Jesus went ashore he saw a large crowd, and he had compassion on them for they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began a long teaching session with them. It was now getting late, so his disciples came to him and said, «This is a lonely place and it is now late. You should send the people away and let them go to the farms and villages around here to buy themselves something to eat». Jesus replied, «You yourselves give them something to eat». (...)

The Mystery of the Eucharist prolongs the Mystery of the Incarnation

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, still immersed in Christmas time, the liturgy offers us – in a "projected" approach - the story of the first multiplication of Loaves and Fish. Jesus is the "God-with-us" ("Emmanuel"); He is because He came to dwell among us and to stay with us, through the Eucharistic bread: the mystery of the Eucharist is a "prolongation" of the mystery of the Incarnation.

The manger is the place where animals find their food. But now, lying in the manger, is He who called himself the true “bread come down from heaven”, the true nourishment that we need in order to be fully ourselves. This is the food that gives us true life, eternal life...

— Thus, the Manger becomes a reference to the table of God, to which we are invited so as to receive the bread of God. From the poverty of Jesus' birth emerges the miracle in which man's redemption is mysteriously accomplished!