

It's a Miracle

By Reg P. Wydeven
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Growing up in Kimberly, every Sunday our family went to Holy Name Church. I enjoyed listening to the homilies of Father Carl Steiner. With his deep baritone voice, Fr. Steiner would interpret the Gospels and relate the moral to our everyday lives. And if it was the Sunday of a home Packer game, as a season ticket holder, Fr. Steiner would explain the Gospel extremely rapidly.

One of my favorite Gospels was about the loaves and fishes. After John the Baptist had been killed, Jesus withdrew by boat to a solitary place near Bethsaida. Huge crowds, however, followed Jesus on foot from the towns. As night approached, the disciples tried to disperse the crowd so they could get something to eat. Jesus told the disciples to feed the crowd, but they only had five loaves of bread and two fish.

Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, Jesus gave thanks and broke the loaves. The disciples gave the food to the people and they all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Without the power of the Holy Spirit, there is no way to feed the masses with such little food. According to a recent class-action lawsuit, however, Taco Bell is sure trying.

The suit was filed in federal court in California by the Montgomery, Alabama, law firm of Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles, and alleges that Taco Bell's meat mixture is not 100% pure beef, but rather binders and fillers. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of Taco Bell customer and California resident Amanda Obney and does not seek monetary damages, but instead asks the court to order Taco Bell to be honest in its advertising.

The suit alleges that the YUM-brands fast-food chain's claims that it uses "seasoned ground beef" or "seasoned beef" in its food products is false. In fact, according to the suit, Taco Bell's meat mixture contains just 35 percent beef, with the remaining 65 percent containing water, wheat oats, soy lecithin, maltodextrin, anti-dusting agent and modified corn starch.

Dee Miles, an attorney for the law firm bringing the action, asserts Taco Bell adds fillers to save money because beef is the most expensive part of their products. In addition, the mixture does not meet the minimum requirements set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to be labeled as "beef." While the USDA allows ground beef to contain seasonings, it cannot consist of water, phosphates, extenders or binders.

Taco Bell officials vehemently deny the allegations contained in the lawsuit. President Greg Creed said in a statement that Taco Bell uses 100% USDA-inspected beef and that the restaurant's website lists all the ingredients they use. The site reflects that the ingredients used to season the Taco Bell meat include salt, chili pepper, onion powder, tomato powder, oats, soy lecithin, sugar, soybean oil, garlic powder, yeast extract, citric acid and cocoa powder.

I just wish Clara Peller was still alive. Famous for her Wendy's ad campaign from the 1980s, I'm sure she would be saying, "Where's the beef?!"