

This week I continue to post my homilies on St. John's "The Bread of Life" Discourse. Next Sunday the 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time concludes his discourse on this amazing mystery.

2024 20Sun (John 6:51-58)

-Last week Jesus said: "Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died, this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die" (V49, 50).

-This week Jesus says (V51): "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." / Here begins the wording that will confuse the crowd.

-For we read: The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us His flesh to eat (V52).

-They know exactly what Jesus meant / Obviously they think Jesus is speaking Literally / Otherwise these words would not have shocked them as they did.

-And if they believed Jesus was being symbolic they would not be arguing / Yet they continue to argue and grumble.

-My "Theme" this week / While they grumble Jesus doesn't back off / He Ramps it up / Jesus will emphasize multiple times the literal (V53-58) / The Greek word for "eat" is literally to chew (V54) / Read these verses for yourself.

-Jesus continues with (V53): "Amen, Amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you." / [Amen or Verily (depending on your translation)] means to make a pledge / Meaning that His Body and Blood are a pledge in a share of His Divine and Eternal Life.

These verses and The Last Supper are part of the Core belief in the Real Presence. The Council of Trent proclaimed this simple understanding: "By the transformation of bread and wine into His Body and Blood, Christ becomes present in the Eucharist."

In Summary:

-"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him" (V56).

-Verse 58 Is the third time Jesus compares the true Bread of Life, His own Body, to the manna God used to feed the Israelites for 40 years in the desert (V49, 50) / So This Bread (Eucharist) is nourishment for the soul (V55) / To take away our hunger.

-This is how we are to share in His Divine Life / The Grace to grow, mature, and to be open to receive Eternal Life / Intimacy with God.

**-GOD IS LOVE...TAKES A BODY...GIVES HIMSELF TO US BODILY...GIVES US THE MASS AND RIGHT WORSHIP THAT CONNECTS US TO HIMSELF...(V53, 54, 56)
WE ARE MADE/CREATED FOR THIS.**

I am currently reading a Conversion Story: Into the Deep: An Unlikely Catholic Conversion,"

A young woman who was moving from Christian feminism to a more secular feminism and atheism, found herself in a Catholic Church and realized she wasn't alone / She was looking for a priest / But no one was in the church / Later she knew it was the Eucharistic Presence / The Eucharist and the Sacraments were a big reason she became Catholic.

And next week:

The Disciples question Him / This teaching is hard.

-Jesus says: Does this shock you?

-Some will leave Jesus over this Dogma / The Eucharist (V66).

-The Mass and Eucharist helps us to order whole our life—body, emotions, and spirit to the things of God / To make us whole and free again / To fill the emptiness and our longing for something more.

-What an incredible gift for those who stay and believe.

**Vivat Jesus,
Father Vic Gournas**

PS: During morning prayer watching the sun rise I had to share this thought. Our Lord's love for us is so deep and penetrating. Especially with the Sacraments. (Father John V Gournas)