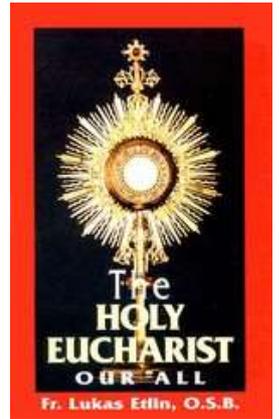


(Food for thought)

Gospel - John 6: 51-58.

Eucharist for all



This week we reflect on the closeness of Christ to us. Jesus explains to the disciples: "whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him." Jesus mentions the words live, life, and living, almost 10 times. He emphasizes that life - real life, eternal life - comes through him, through his body and blood. There is a sense of intimacy here. Ours is not a distant, unapproachable God. Ours is a close and very personal God with whom we are called to share our lives.

We know that when we possess the life of God within ourselves, we are open to and make possible moments of wonderful grace - God's presence - moments when the unrelenting love of God is especially real to us. This is manifested in so many ways, in the many gifts of creation that encircle us, from the food that we put on our tables to the light of the sun that warms us; in the kindness and compassion of those who respond at special moments through acts of generosity and forgiveness that, though small and unheralded, transform the lives of those around us in peace and joy.

Eucharist is a sharing; it is a sharing of gifts at the table of the Lord, at the table of life. It is the situations of life we find experience, which enable us to see ourselves, to come to appreciate the gifts that we are, and the realization that happiness comes when we are able to take what we have been given and share our time and talents with others.

Like the boy with the loaves and fish, we come bringing our own paltry provisions; we offer them to the Lord who takes them and who provides our nourishment. But Jesus did not institute the Eucharist simply to change bread and wine into His Body and Blood. Much more than this, He transforms us into His Body and Blood. We become Eucharist for one another.

