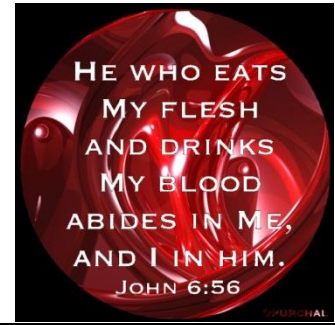


(Food for thought: Gospel: John 6: 51-58)



“Beyond the miraculous”

The Gospel of John gives us a sacramental look at our own lives, properly placed within the perspective of Christ's life - and His life within us. He shows us a Jesus who uses the language of our world to refer to the realities of His world. He gives us the time to meditate and think about what the Eucharist means in our own lives. And he allows us to place ourselves at the Table as one of Jesus' disciples, to watch and to listen to what He says.

Jesus explains to the disciples: "whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him." Those hearing this had no doubt as to what Jesus meant, even though they had no

heart to believe him. We too can ask in unbelief, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Or we can listen in faith to the unspoken language of the Eucharist and in our hearts know it to be true.

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 that we experience, which enable us to truly 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 this with others.



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