



The Eucharist & The Last Supper

THE EUCHARIST IS THE SOURCE AND SUMMIT OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE!

AT THE LAST SUPPER, JESUS TAKES THE FOODS OF THE JEWISH PASSOVER -- THE BREAD, WINE, AND UNBLEMISHED LAMB, AND DOES SOMETHING NEW.

JESUS SAYS, "I AM THE LIVING BREAD THAT CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN. WHOEVER EATS OF THIS BREAD WILL LIVE FOREVER; AND THE BREAD THAT I WILL GIVE FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD IS MY FLESH." (JOHN 6:51)

IN THE TIME OF JESUS, JUST LIKE TODAY, IT'S HARD TO COMPREHEND THE "HOW" OF THE EUCHARIST WITH OUR OWN LIMITED UNDERSTANDING. BUT JESUS DIDN'T SHY AWAY FROM WHAT HE WANTS HIS DISCIPLES TO DO: NAMELY TO EAT HIS FLESH AND DRINK HIS BLOOD! (SEE JOHN 6:54)

BY BELIEVING THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD, WE CAN SAY "LORD, HELP MY UNBELIEF (MARK 9:24)" AND RECEIVE HIM WITH EYES OF FAITH, CONFIDENT THAT THE "WHY" OF THE EUCHARIST IS CLEAR:

JESUS WANTS COMMUNION WITH US! HE WANTS US TO BE ONE WITH HIM!

JESUS BECOMES THE PASSOVER LAMB AT THE LAST SUPPER AND GIVES HIS APOSTLES TRUE FOOD TO EAT THAT WILL COMPLETE THE SACRIFICE. HE TRANSFORMS THE BREAD AND WINE BY HIS POWER AS GOD INTO HIS OWN FLESH AND BLOOD. HE THEN COMMANDS THEM TO CELEBRATE THIS NEW COVENANT SACRIFICE WHICH CULMINATES AT THE CROSS.

WHEN YOU GO TO MASS, DO YOU THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS?

DO YOU ASK JESUS TO HELP YOU TO SEE HIM IN THE ACTIONS OF THE PRIEST?

DO YOU GIVE THANKS TO JESUS FOR TOTALLY GIVING HIMSELF OVER TO THE CROSS FOR OUR SAKE?

THIS IS OUR FAITH! HOW AWESOME IS THAT?!

THE GRACES THAT BURST FORTH ON THE CROSS, SIGNIFIED BY THE BLOOD AND WATER POURING FROM JESUS' PIERCED SIDE, ARE STILL FLOWING TO US AT EVERY MASS. THE EUCHARIST IS AT ONCE A PARTICIPATION IN THE TRUE PASSOVER--THE LAST SUPPER AND THE LORD'S CRUCIFIXION. SINCE JESUS HAS BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD, IT IS ALSO AN ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN HIS RESURRECTION. IN SHORT, WE ENTER INTO CHRIST'S WHOLE SAVING ACTION AT THE MASS AND RECEIVE THE FRUITS OF HIS SACRIFICE: ETERNAL LIFE.