



SAINT LOUIS ABBEY



Thanksgiving Day 2010 – Father Laurence Kriegshauser, O.S.B.

When we come together to celebrate Thanksgiving Day we probably think first of thanksgiving for food. God has provided us with an abundance of food. Unlike much of the world we do not go wanting. Then we thank him for the freedom and peace our country enjoys together with the many other personal and family blessings each of us can think of this particular year.

But when we come to church to give thanks our thanksgiving for these natural blessings is taken up into another act of thanksgiving, that of Jesus Christ himself as he offers himself as a thanksgiving sacrifice to the Father on behalf of all mankind, winning us eternal life by this Eucharist or thank-offering. It is his personal act of thanksgiving to the Father that redeems mankind from sin, and in the Eucharist we are drawn into that one most vital human act that has ever existed. Our task is to let ourselves be drawn into this great act of thanksgiving that the Son makes to the Father, the Creator of the world. With Jesus we thank the Father for his great deeds on behalf of mankind: for creating us, preserving us, providing for us, but above all for sending his Son to die for us and so to establish the kingdom where all are sons and daughters of God, living with the life of God himself and so living in love for God and one another.

The Eucharist draws us into this prayer of Christ and then sends us back out into the world to be bearers of Christ's love for the poor and needy. May our sharing in this great sacrifice strengthen us in our love for God and our obedience to his commands. May our thanksgiving be our means of making him known to the world. May it make us missionaries to a world that needs to know of his love so that all men and women can in turn give thanks to the Father whose love for us never ends.