



SAINT LOUIS ABBEY



Fr. Laurence
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My dear brothers and sisters, we come here this morning with all our cares and concerns, our preoccupations and our joys, our hopes and our fears. We come with our faith, whether it be strong or tepid. Whoever we are, whatever we feel, the Son of God will come into our midst and shed his blood for us because he loves us. Jesus Christ is the Father's love for us, for every one of his children. He comes to offer himself to his Father in sacrifice for us and then to feed us with his body and blood. When we partake of him we are joined to his risen life, because he is now risen with his Father in heaven. All our sorrows and struggles and doubts and fears and hopes are taken up into his life. They become part of the life of God. And he in turn transforms these materials of our life into means of life and growth. He takes our feelings, guides them into means of expressing our love for one another and helping to build up his Church. This is the power of the Eucharist, the power to divinize humanity. Let us think of the sorrows and hardships of the world today: the person dying in Myanmar because help couldn't reach him, the child buried under a fallen building in China, those dying of AIDS or brutality in Africa, the young soldier blown up in Iraq, those in our own society suffering from broken families or incurable disease. Let us think of all those driven by lust, or greed, or pride, or jealousy, or substance abuse. These are the children of God whom he loves, for whom he died. These are the ones whom he invites to partake of his healing banquet. These are those living stones with whom he is building his kingdom. Whether or not they are aware of it he is inviting them into his own divine life, and insofar as they say Yes to his offer of life, however dimly they become aware of it, they are joined to him. This Eucharist unites us, makes us one body. It is the visible sign of the unity of all men and women which the Lord is constructing. By our sharing in the Body and Blood of Christ we become brothers and sisters of all those whom I mentioned who are suffering. We enter that vast kingdom of God full of broken lives mended by Christ. Our own lives become healed as we allow his saving grace and love to flood us.

Let us make wide our hearts to take him in, to allow him to sanctify us, to make our desires holy, to energize us with his love. Let us bring him our brokenness that we may be made whole. Let us bring to him that great affliction that stalks every one of us, namely death. We love this life God has made, we don't want it to end. God himself doesn't want it to end so he gave us his Son that death might be overcome and swallowed up in eternal life.

Let us accept wholeheartedly the gift of our God. Let us invite him to transform our hopes and our fears into courage and love. May we thank him for his divine generosity with hearts and lips full of praise. May we become ambassadors of the hope he holds out to us, bringing hope to those whom the



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Lord is calling into fellowship with him. We are called to be wounded healers who pass on to others the good news they have received, the love with which they have been loved. May we play our part in bringing others to the banquet of eternal life in the kingdom of God which endures forever.