



## SAINT LOUIS ABBEY



### **Fr Laurence's Homily for 9/11/03**

*Fr. Laurence Kriegshauser, O.S.B.*

Two years ago today a brutal act, or series of acts, was committed against our nation, a manifestation of vicious hatred for what we stand for. In looking for meaning in these senseless acts we find ourselves coming to church, where we dimly sense a meaning may be found. There we are confronted with a figure on a cross, and we reenact the action by which he gave himself to the Father, submitting voluntarily to another act of violence more senseless than all others because he was the God of love. We celebrate his resurrection, his triumph over hatred and cruelty, his coming back in love and forgiveness to those who by their sins caused his death.

We celebrate the love that is stronger than death and renew our faith that that love is the foundation of human existence, the most real thing in the world, more powerful than all human, indeed all diabolical power. It was a power shown in weakness, in bearing ill treatment, in forgiving and thereby overcoming evil. The readings of today's Mass call us to go on quietly witnessing to that divine kind of love in our own daily lives. That is the greatest contribution we can make to the war against human evil. Our task is to forgive as we have been forgiven, to love our enemies, and so absorb evil in the greater power of love.

We must persevere in this witness—perhaps more acts of terror are to come. We need to proclaim by our lives that Jesus truly is Lord. We must pray that the healing sacrifice of Christ offered here may dissolve the evil in men's hearts, in our hearts, and turn them back to good. We need to renew our faith that nothing is impossible to God. And we need to continue to work for life and not for death.