



## SAINT LOUIS ABBEY



### Thoughts for the First Month of the New Millennium

#### EVERY TIME WE CELEBRATE THE EUCHARIST...

Imagine for a moment God coming down from heaven to this altar and moving out from the altar in all directions to enter each person here, joining all to himself so that they become parts of his Body, and therefore one Body, in perfect unity. That is what happens every time we celebrate the Eucharist, and it happens because we believe in a God who took flesh.

When God became man and died and rose from the dead, he raised that flesh with him and it can never be separated from him again. Flesh and God, the human and the infinite are joined together in the unbreakable bond of a single person. And when he releases his Spirit on us, that Spirit joins us to his Body, making us an extension of it.

How united then must we be! Each of us with the dignity of a part of a divine body, no one of us cast off or left out, and no one of us able to stand on his own or dominate the rest. That unity is the goal of Christians. Let's get rid of all that separates us from one another: resentment, greed, jealousy, unkindness, pre-occupation with ourselves, and lack of love. Let us leave aside our pride; let our hearts be softened. Let us accept our place in the Body, the place God give us. Let us make our talents and gifts available to those around us, and let us recognize our need for the talents and gifts of others. No one of us can stand-alone; we need the love and support of each other in the Spirit, in the Body of Christ. Let us draw on the strength of that Body, that divine life coursing through the Church that invigorates all who accept it.

If we can do that how powerful we will be. What a cell of unity will exist in the world. What a beginning of unity for the whole divided and bickering world. A divine medicine has been given to the world a force and a life, which can heal the wounds of sin and division and bind the hearts of all mankind in one. From the Church, the Body of Christ, let healing flow out on the nations. Let them leave the ways of darkness and walk in the light of the Lord. May we Christians so live in unity and love that people will see how we love one another and submit to the life that the Church offers them. May one song of praise arise from earth to the Father who has blessed us with the best gift, the gift of his love, our Savior, who lives and reigns with him in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.