

The 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle B

August 23, 2015

## Know Your Faith

### Rebellion among Jesus' Followers



Many of Jesus' disciples who were listening said, "***This saying (to eat Jesus' flesh) is hard; who can accept it?***" Jesus said to them, "***Does this shock you?***" *It is the Spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail.* Jn. 6: 60-63

THE HOLY EUCHARIST IS 'THE SOURCE AND SUMMIT OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE' CCC 1324. IT IS THE REAL, SUBSTANTIAL PRESENCE OF CHRIST AMONG US: "THE BODY AND BLOOD, TOGETHER WITH THE SOUL AND DIVINITY, OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST AND, THEREFORE, **THE WHOLE CHRIST IS TRULY, REALLY, AND SUBSTANTIALLY CONTAINED.**" CCC: 1374 (Lumen Gentium 11)

The Eucharist is the core doctrine of the Catholic Church because **the Church interprets Jesus' telling us to eat my body and drink my blood literally**, just as He spoke to the disciples who stayed as He spoke literally to the disciples who walked away.

Non-Catholics believe that Jesus negates this literal interpretation of this passage when He says, *It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail.* Jn. 6:63

No one can understand Jesus' command to eat His Flesh on human understanding alone. This is what Jesus mean when He says *the flesh is of no avail.*



**St. Cyril of Alexandria (378-444 AD)** comments,

"It is not the nature of the flesh that renders the Spirit life-giving, but the might of the Spirit that makes the body life-giving. *The words that I have spoken to you are spirit, that is, both spiritual and of the Spirit, and they are life.*" Jn. 6:63

Jesus' words are too much for the disciples who leave. But they do understand them literally, just as the Church does today.

The disciples who leave cannot surrender all their trust to Jesus and His *command to eat His flesh*. Peter doesn't understand, but we hear his famous confession of faith, *To whom shall we go, we have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.* Jn. 6: 69 By calling Jesus *the Holy One of God*, **Peter** is both alluding to Isaiah 41:14 and affirming **Jesus' divinity as being the Truth.**

**Peter also speaks as the leader of the Apostles.**

**If the Jews ate the Manna—If Jesus commands us to eat His flesh--- If Jesus calls Himself the Bread of Life--- Will You walk away from eating Jesus' Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in His Real Presence in the Eucharist?**

