



SAINT LOUIS ABBEY



Divine Mercy Sunday, 2006

23 April, 2006

Fr. Laurence Kriegshauser, O.S.B.

Thomas believed more than he saw. He saw a man risen from the dead but believed this man was God. This is also our faith. In Jesus human flesh has been filled with divine life. From the risen Jesus divinity radiates. Those who are told of him by his witnesses and their successors have only to accept this divinity to receive it. By faith they are transformed into new creatures, children of God, begotten by God. This is the victory over the world, says Saint John, our faith that Jesus is the Son of God.

This life has come to us through baptism. Jesus, risen in the flesh, wanted to use bodily things as the vehicle of his divine life. We are born again of water and the Spirit. Our flesh is divinized. All we need do is surrender more and more of ourselves to this divine life. If our body seems burdened, our feelings disordered, our virtue weak, we know that the Spirit of forgiveness has been breathed on us by the risen Lord, our sins are drowned in his mercy. We can accept this weak flesh of ours with all its proneness to sin, because God accepts it and heals and renews it. That is why he has given us the other sacraments besides baptism: the Eucharist, penance, confirmation, anointing of the sick, the ordination that empowers men to make him present, matrimony that makes two one flesh in Christ.

We proclaim that Jesus Christ has sanctified the flesh, that he wishes to transform the world. The Catholic Church with all its failings, its sinners, is the bearer of divine life to the world and the generator of saints. We will show that we have this life if we are one heart and mind through love, if the unity of the risen Christ triumphs over our divisions.

Furthermore the risen Lord will sanctify the world through us. Our vocation is to bring his risen life into every sector of human experience. The more we yield ourselves to the power of Christ's Spirit, the more free he is in us to transform this world from a place of violence into a place of peace, to replace hatred with love, to ensure that each man, woman, and child has what he or she needs.

We must never give up on the flesh, never give up on this world, not seek to escape from it, but love it as God loves it, welcome it as he has welcomed us. His divine mercy will heal us, and of that mercy we are the recipients and the agents. We freely give away what we have received. The Christ whose body and blood we consume this morning impels us outward to bring his mercy, peace, joy, and life to the world.

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