



SAINT LOUIS ABBEY



Homily for 18 May, 2006

Fr. Laurence Kriegshauser, O.S.B.

If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love. We do not merit Jesus's love by keeping his commandments, but keeping his commandments is a sign that we truly are abiding in his love, allowing his love to change us into persons who love as he loves. This Gospel is part of the "vine and branches" sermon; just as a branch grafted onto a tree draws life from that tree and reveals the nature of that tree, so we who draw life from Christ will bear the fruit of love that resembles the love of Christ for us. We abide in him by faith and by consuming his body and blood, for he said, "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides [remains] in me and I in him." It is no coincidence that it is at the Last Supper that Jesus gives this teaching on the vine and branches since the Eucharist he instituted there is the means by which his life, his power to love, becomes ours.