

Gospel Reflection

The intimate bond that unites families is well described by the phrase “flesh and blood.” “How can you treat your own flesh and blood so harshly?” a father might ask his son. “I can’t give up my baby for adoption; she’s my own flesh and blood,” a daughter may say to her mother. “I love you as though you were my own flesh and blood,” a brother might say to a stepbrother. It is as though our families are an inseparable part of us. Even those who have traumatic or abusive experiences with family members recognize the depth of emotional and spiritual connection we have with our families.

In Jesus’ words to the crowds in today’s Gospel we hear him talk about our participation in the Eucharist as a sharing in his own flesh and blood. Through the Eucharist Christ himself dwells in us. His divine and eternal life courses through our veins. Like a family gathered at table, we become more and more intimately connected with Christ and one another. As Paul tells us, “We, though many, are one body” (1 Corinthians 10:17), united as members of Christ’s own flesh and blood.

Within the Body of Christ today, many are suffering as Jesus once did, and the suffering of one of our “brothers and sisters” should be of deep concern to us. We who partake of the Body and Blood of Christ must be prepared to be broken and poured out as Jesus was “for the life of the world” (John 6:51). We must become willing to suffer ourselves if it will benefit a member of our own “flesh and blood.”

As you receive Holy Communion this week, open your heart to the intimate connections that unite us as family within the Body of Christ. Then reflect on how those bonds will affect the way you treat your own flesh and blood this week.

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KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

John 6:51-58

D H L L T W E R W R W Q D
 Y R I I F S Z U C E O U L
 A F I N V U W Z W H R A U
 E N O N V I Z E A T L R D
 Q Q E H K B N N J A D R E
 I A Y V X S C G I F H E I
 X S N K A E I N B S A L D
 O H V X S E T O E R R E K
 G E U T U M H L Q Y E D U
 C Y O N A M F O N O S A E
 V R B L O O D V F M Y T D
 S S C G R N X N Z T A X K
 W R R B D O O F N C P W J

Find these words from the Gospel passage.

ANCESTORS	ATE	BLOOD
DIED	DRINK	FATHER
FLESH	FOOD	HEAVEN
JEWS	LIFE	LIVING BREAD
QUARRELED	SON OF MAN	WORLD

Disciple’s Reflection & Questions of the Week

*Solemnity of Corpus Christi
5/25/2008*

*John 6:51-58
Faith-Sharing
Questions of the Week*



Our Lady of the Assumption

435 Berkeley Ave.

Claremont, CA

www.olaclaremont.org

Call to Prayer

We begin by calling upon God:

**In the Name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

The Word of God: *John 6:51-58*

The Gospel according to John

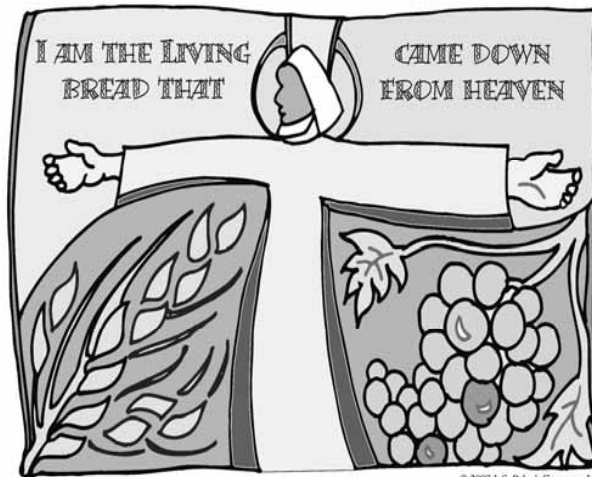
Jesus said to the Jewish crowds: "I am the living **bread that came down from heaven**; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I

have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike **your ancestors** who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

The Gospel of the Lord



Gospel Glossary

Eucharist: from the Greek "eucharistia" meaning "thanksgiving"

bread that came down from heaven: This recalls the food (manna) that God miraculously provided to the Israelites during the Exodus.

your ancestors: a reference to the Exodus-era Israelites.

Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week

- When has the Lord been living bread for me and sustained me in my journey of faith?
- When am I Christ's living bread, given for others?
- How does my communion with Christ invite me into communion with others?

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,

You gave us the Eucharist as the memorial of your suffering and death. May our worship of this sacrament of your body and blood help us to experience the salvation you won for us and the peace of the kingdom where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Solemnity of Corpus Christi