

Christ the King Abbey

(Traditional Benedictines)
(Formerly St Francis of Assisi Chapel)
www.christthekingabbey.org

Cullman, Alabama
Every Sunday: 6:00 AM and 10:00 AM
Daily: 6:00 AM
Holy Days of Obligation:
6:00 AM - 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel
Montgomery, Alabama
10:45 AM
Only on first Sunday
of each month

St Pius V Chapel
Birmingham, Alabama
9:30 AM
Every Sunday except
first Sunday of each month

THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Weekly Bulletin #942

(Fourth Sunday after Pentecost)

July 2, 2006 – White

Mass of the Visitation; Gl; Cr; Pref. Our Lady; Comm. Sunday and Ss. Processus and Martinian

CONCERNING THE BLESSED EUCHARIST

“I am the Bread of Life”

“Amen, amen, I say to you: he that believeth in Me hath everlasting life. **I am the Bread of Life.** Your fathers did eat manna in the desert, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven; that if any man eat of it, he may not die. I am the living Bread which came down from heaven. If any man eat of this Bread, he shall live forever, and the Bread that I will give is My Flesh for the life of the world.”

The people did not understand! The people **did not want** to understand, and they murmured amongst themselves. Their demand for clarification was immediate. Surely this Man was speaking symbolically! What He was saying could never be! Christ had said, “I am the Living Bread which came down from heaven.” How could this be? They said to one another, “Is this not Jesus, the Son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How then saith He, ‘I came down from heaven?’” Our Blessed Lord heard their words and was quick to read their thoughts, and He answered them, “Murmur not amongst yourselves because I said that I am the Bread of Life. If any man eat of this Bread he shall live forever, and the Bread that I will give is My Flesh for the life of the world.”

But the more Jesus spoke, the louder became the complaints, the more disorganized and angry became the questions. Indignation and rejection filled the air all around! “How can this man give us His Flesh to eat?” they asked. Millions upon millions have asked this very same question since that day. “How can Christ be present whole and entire in the Host? How can Christ be present whole and entire – Flesh and Blood – in a piece of bread?” The answer – plain and simple – is that we do not know how! Our Lord did not tell the people they had to understand the mystery of it all, but simply to believe it. He simply asked them to believe Him, Who for years had been working amongst them signs and wonderful manifestations. Signs and wonders, they admitted, such as no other man had ever wrought. It should be reasonable to think that the people ought to have believed His Word, and should have waited with patient humility to see how He would accomplish it. Unfortunately, they did not; instead they complained violently: “This saying is hard, who can hear it?” And they went away and walked no more with Him.

Let us ponder for a moment and ask ourselves what this wonderful promise really meant, and why so precious a Gift was left to us. Even more, why has so precious a Gift been such a stumbling block to so many millions of souls throughout the ages? Today the precious Gift of the Blessed Eucharist is more of a stumbling block than ever before, even amongst those specially “consecrated” and presumably “committed” to the protection and preservation of It.

When our Divine Lord took a body and soul like ours and the Word was made Flesh and dwelt amongst us, He did not intend this dwelling in our midst to be merely for the time of His physical life on earth from His Birth to His Ascension into Heaven! He was not speaking only to the very few who were able to approach Him and speak with Him then. That which was done by Jesus Christ was to be for the welfare of all mankind and for all time. His blessed Body, Whose very touch gave life and healing to the sick of Galilee and Judea was to be our life and healing also. Indeed, we were to be allowed to have a closer union with Him than were those whose sores He touched and healed. The closeness of the union our Divine Savior had in mind is totally indescribable. He promised a Divine Bread that would give life to the world. This Bread was to be His Flesh and was intended to be the food of all who would believe in Him and belong to His Church. It was intended to be a spiritual food, a spiritual nourishment, a private, personal, spiritual indwelling of the soul. “My Flesh is meat indeed and My Blood is drink indeed,” were and continue to be His most solemn words.

