

GOSPEL PEARLS

The Real Presence

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14_06_2020



Jesus said the crowd: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in

him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” (John 6: 51-58)

Jesus says that whoever does not eat of His flesh and drink of His blood will not share in eternal life in Him. We should think of these words us every time Satan tempts us to doubt the Real Presence of Jesus to be found in the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. May we stay as much as possible in God's Grace to be able to nourish ourselves often with the Body of Christ.