

Written by Francis Fernandez
Thursday, 30 April 2009 09:36 -

THE BREAD OF LIFE The Blessed Eucharist announced at the Synagogue of Capharnaum. Our Lord asks us for a living faith. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate manna in the desert and yet they died. The bread which comes down from heaven is such that he who eats it never dies (John 6:48-50). We read in today's gospel this marvellous and astounding announcement which Jesus made in the synagogue at Capharnaum. Our Lord went on: I myself am the living bread which has come down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread he shall live forever; and the bread which I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world (John 6:51). Jesus reveals the great mystery of the Blessed Eucharist. His words have such realism that they exclude any other interpretation. Without faith, his words have no meaning. On the other hand, when the presence of Christ in the Eucharist is accepted by faith, then the revelation of Jesus turns out to be clear and unmistakable, and he shows us the infinite love which God has for us. 'Adoro te devote, latens deitas, quae sub his figuris vere latitas': Godhead here in hiding, whom I do adore, Masked by these bare shadows, shape and nothing more, we say with St Thomas Aquinas in that hymn which was adopted by the Church's Liturgy many centuries ago. It is an expression of faith and of piety that can help us express our love, because it forms a summary of the principal points of catholic doctrine on this sacred Mystery. God head here in hiding, whom I do adore, we repeat in the intimacy of our hearts, slowly, with faith, hope and love. The people who were present on that day in the synagogue understood the proper and literal meaning of our Lord's words. If they had understood him in a symbolic or figurative manner, they would not have been as confused and amazed as St. John shows them to have been on hearing what Jesus said. And these words would not have been the occasion of many of them leaving Our Lord on that day. This is a harsh saying and who can bear it? (John 6:60) they said as they went away. It is a harsh saying, and continues to be so, for those who are not well-disposed, for those who do not admit without the shadow of a doubt that Jesus of Nazareth, God, who became man, communicates out of love in this way with men. I adore you, hidden God head, we say to Him in our prayer, expressing our love, our gratitude and the humble assent with which we receive him. This attitude is essential if we are to approach this mystery of Love. 'Tibi se cor meum totum subiicit, quia te contemplan totum deficit': See, Lord, at thy service low lies here a heart, Lost, all lost in wonder at the God thou art. We feel the need of repeating this many times to Our Lord, because the number of unbelievers is great. He also asks us, and all who want to follow him very closely, Do you also want to go away? (cf John 6:67). And on seeing the lack of direction, the confusion of so many Christians whose souls are asleep to the supernatural life, our love has to re-affirm itself. Tibi se cor meum totum subiicit... Our faith in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist has to be firm: We believe that as the bread and wine consecrated by Christ at the Last Supper were converted into his Body and his Blood, which were immediately offered for us on the Cross, thus also the bread and wine consecrated by the priest are converted into the Body and Blood of Christ, sitting gloriously in heaven; and we believe that the mysterious presence of Our Lord, under the appearance of those elements, which continue appearing to our senses in the same fashion as before, is a true, real and substantial presence (Paul VI, The Creed of the People of God, 24). With permission from Scepter UK. Short excerpt from IN CONVERSATION WITH GOD by Francis Fernandez. Available at SinagTala or Totus Bookstore 723-4326 or at www.totusbookstore.com (info@totusbookstore.com) To subscribe or unsubscribe, please email info@defensoresfidei.com. The DEFENSORES FIDEI FOUNDATION actively spreads Ecclesial Information, Catechetical Instructions and Apologetics in pursuit of making good Catholics better Catholics. Any contribution to help this apostolate is heaven-sent and now

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