

21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

Joshua 24:1-2a,15-18b
Ps 34:(9a) 2-3,16-21
Ephesians 5:21-32
John 6:60-69

Monday August 27 St. Monica

2 Thes 1:1-5,11-12
Ps 96:1-5
Matthew 23:13-22

Tuesday August 28 St. Augustine

2 Thes 2:1-3a,14-17
Ps 96:10-13
Matthew 23:23-26

Wednesday August 29 Death of John the Baptist

2 Thes 3:6-10,16-18
Ps 128:1-2,4-5
Mark 6:17-29

Thursday August 30

1 Corinthians 1:1-9
Ps 145:2-7
Matthew 24:42-51

Friday August 31

1 Corinthians 1:17-25
Ps 33:1-2,4-5,10-11
Matthew 25:1-13

Saturday September 1

1 Corinthians 1:26-31
Ps 33:12-13,18-21
Matthew 25:14-30

In John 6:60-69, we see the tragic rejection of Christ's true mission by many who had been listening to him and watching him. How could they miss the message that he taught? "The words I have spoken are Spirit and life," he said. But they only heard his words on the surface level, in their flesh-nature. And thus they missed the life that he was offering: the healed life, the joyful life, the victorious life, the eternal life.

They weren't looking at Jesus spiritually. They saw him as a man, not messiah, as a healer of bodies, not souls, as a deliverer from Romans instead of from their sins.

Thus, the idea of eating his flesh and drinking his blood (which he had spoken of in the previous verses, in last Sunday's readings) truly was

gross and unthinkable. They couldn't grasp the Spirit and life behind those words. It seemed that Jesus had become too bizarre to follow.

The true disciples – those who remained to learn more from him – also didn't understand what he meant, not yet, but they recognized the presence of the Holy Spirit in his words.



How many times has Jesus come to you in another person and you didn't recognize him, because what you saw was the human individual and what you focused on was their un-Christ-like behavior?

Everyone has been created in the image of God. They would not be alive if the Holy Spirit had not given them life. Even non-Christians have the presence of Christ in them. To live a more victorious life, we have to look beneath the surface to find the Jesus who is hidden inside everyone we meet.

Do you have any difficulty recognizing the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist at Mass? Practice recognizing Jesus when he comes to you in others, and you will see the Eucharist in new ways.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. Jesus said, "No one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father." How has the Father gifted you with the ability to recognize Jesus?
2. What has happened in your life that opened your eyes to who Jesus really is?
3. What blocks our view of Jesus when he comes to us through others? What expectations, disappointments, or prejudices?
4. Share with your group a time when you learned to see past the flesh to discover Jesus in someone you didn't like. What led to this discovery?