

Reflection for April 29, 2020

On Good Friday, when Sister Mary Ellen Sheehan was reflecting on John's account of the Passion, she mentioned that the institution of the Eucharist was in Chapter 6. This week our Gospels are taken from that Chapter.

Today, we hear, "I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." What a promise! Our invitation in this reading is to delve more deeply into the mystery of Eucharist; savor its meaning, and make it flesh in our lives.

In the preceding passages, Jesus appears as giver of bread, the new Moses. But in today's Gospel, Jesus not only gives but *is* the bread of life. Ilia Delio tells us, "Eucharist is a sacrament of evolution, the empowering of new life, by forging a new pattern in the divine-human relationship. Eucharist is a sacrament of wholeness, that heals us by accepting our incomplete being into the embrace of God's sympathetic love."

Jesus requests that we "do this to re-member me." The deepest identity of the Christ is the relationship with the Father, which overflows into a mission of love for our fractured, wounded world. The gift of the Cross, *is* Jesus pouring the love he receives from the Divine Source to others, to us. Eucharist is bread being broken and eaten for the hungry of the world.

We are made whole through our sharing, our lives made meaningful, made new. Foundational to Eucharist is the awareness that we must give our lives to each other and for each other. This time of pandemic has shown in bold relief the critical need to *re-member* one another. When we do, we can celebrate, we can mourn, we can trust, we can forgive, we can treasure, and we can face our future. In sharing the meaning of our lives is given back to the One who gives, the One who receives, the One who is.

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Material: *The Emergent Christ*, by Ilia Delio
Becoming Bread, by Gumilla Norris