

## INPUT FOR PERSONAL OR COMMUNAL REFLECTION

## 3. Father Francis Jordan – a praying Blessed

by Fr. Benedikt Laib SDS, Meran, 1 July 2020

From the Gospel according to St. John

“For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.”

“Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me.”

(John 6, 33.51.56-57)

Rejoice and be glad, timid soul, because the Creator of all will take up His dwelling with you! (...)

The strong, omnipotent God is coming to you. (...)

Rejoice and be glad, troubled soul!

No angel is coming to you, no saint,

But the King and Lord of angels and all saints. (...)

The Most High Himself, the Most Holy, the All-patient One, the Almighty, All-meek, Healer of all ills, the Saviour of the world!

Immerse yourself in the ocean of the love of your God.

(SD I/150\* - shortened text)

I am very affected by this Communion prayer from our Founder. Certainly, he already had written it down in his Spiritual Diary on the eve before Mass and taken it with him into the night. - What intimacy and depth!

We speak of reading a Mass, but - following Father Francis of the Cross - it is much more; it is the “ocean of God’s love”. Because Jesus gave himself completely, all His love, all his life, suffering and death:

*“My body, broken for you;  
my blood poured out for you. “*

In the sacrifice of Mass, a contact is established with the Crucified and Risen one and His love flows into my heart. With His love he penetrates me completely.

We, who celebrate the Eucharist every day, have to ask ourselves in the light of this in-depth meditation of Fr. Francis Jordan:

- How carefully do I prepare myself for Holy Mass? Do I think through the Bible texts and Mass prayers beforehand, also as a concelebrant?
- Or do I just enter the sacristy, put on the priestly vestments, and then hurry to the altar?
- Do I “read the Mass” or am I aware of celebrating a deep Mystery that Orthodox Christians call “divine liturgy”?
- Do we see ourselves in everyday dealings as “theophorus”, that is, as confreres in whom Christ lives? (cf. Martyr Bishop Ignatius † 117)

## Prayer of St. Thomas Aquinas:

“Merciful God,  
Grant me the grace of receiving  
not only the Sacrament of our Lord’s Body and Blood,  
but also its grace and power  
so that I merit to be incorporated into His mystical Body.  
O most loving Father,  
grant me the grace to contemplate the face of your beloved Son  
whom I receive under the sacramental veil here below.”