

So whoever eats me will draw life from me

Draw life from me

The life of faith is drawn from a certain amount of teaching. The teaching which if it has any real validity is from the person and nature of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

This varies in depth. However there is a clear and relatively objective level to this instruction.

For example the notion of forgiveness. As Roman Catholics, as Christians the notion of forgiveness that is exemplified by Christ Jesus is presented to us from our earliest years.

We are taught to forgive

This forgiveness draws life from the person and nature of Jesus.

You have heard how it has been said an eye for an eye

But then the whole world is blind. Self-righteous indignation closes off whole areas of experience. Relationships which potentially open up latent talents are closed. Self-condemnation undermines confidence, destroys self-esteem.

Forgiveness as lived by Christ liberates

Forgiveness as lived by Christ creates new life

It is our faith that living forgiveness draws that life into our existence.

At the heart of Roman Catholic faith is the celebration of Holy Communion

It is from this communion, from this community that we can draw life.

Christ Jesus established the Church. Leaving not perfection but the community of faith to go out and spread the good news.

Thus there is no such thing in Christianity as private faith.

Such sources of genuine life are essential in our ever more isolated western society.

Where celebrating anything on a community basis is an uphill struggle.

Your gathering with people you know is a source of affirmation of your lifestyle

Your loving concern as you speak and care is life enhancing.

As a child a real part of my identity was established, by school, youth groups, serving on the altar.
Being a member of the parish scout group.

The sacraments, Baptism, marriage are social activities

Whatever social activities take place as a result of faith are sacramental by their nature.

Because we draw real life from living the teaching of Jesus.

Be that at a weekday mass, or a Christmas Fayre

Then of course there is prayer itself, and the many forms of prayer.

Even in the attempt at prayer we draw life

Those who never stop, are often obliged to run around in the ever decreasing circles, of self-
obsession, and compliance.

When we pray we attempt to stop the compulsive order of actions and break the sequence of
apparent necessity.

Then in that place or time return again to the beginning. To put into context choices, and to ask why.

To draw life which is new and different from the silence and stillness of faith.

Life which can be more threatening than the compliance accepted existence.

Even in the attempt at prayer there is the consolation of the presence of God.

Looking into the eyes of God

I look into the eyes of one who loves me

And in that gaze

I see myself as I am

And as I can be.

My Fathers joy

Calling me onward

Do not be afraid.

Thus in desperation we draw life

That allows us to go forward into even that which we fear.

We draw life from the bread of heaven

We draw life from our faith

Practically

Socially

Spiritually

Nourished in order to participate in the love of God.

