

Reflection Wednesday 5th Week Easter 2022

Because of the support of many other nations, Ukraine has been able to defend itself far better than would have otherwise been the case. The pandemic taught us that together we are able to help a greater number of people than if we work on our own. Celtic spirituality rejoices in the life and love of God and ourselves that flows through all those with whom we come into contact. This whole process of interactive energy and grace leaves us stronger the more often it happens. Jesus used the image of the vine, common to many households, to help his listeners understand better how God works in and through them. Human interaction is so important. Coming together to give praise, glory and thanksgiving to God is mutually strengthening, encouraging and supportive. The celebrant or minister is enriched, motivated and inspired by the presence of those who pray with him/her. Jesus said, in coming together he is present among us in a special way, which is why the Eucharist is so important.

Macrina Wiederkehr osb: *Anyone familiar with wheat and grapes knows that the story of bread and wine is indeed a story of life and death. How wise of Jesus to use such already sacred signs to continue His presence among us. We have been asked to break bread and share the cup in His name. Each time we do this we proclaim his death and rising until he comes again. Are not our lives a little like the wheat and grapes? Doesn't a similar kind of religious experience take place in us: dying and rising, being broken and crushed, shared together, poured out for one another? Surely, as in that broken bread and that shared cup, it is the same Christ we are trying to recognise in the brokenness of our lives. The story of our Eucharist is, indeed, a mystery we have hardly begun to tap.*