

live forever : and the bread that I will give, is My flesh for the life of the world, The Jews therefore strove among themselves saying : How can this man give us His flesh to eat ? Then Jesus said to them : Amen, amen, I say unto you : Except you eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, you shall not have life in you. He that eateth My flesh and drinketh My blood hath everlasting life : and I will raise him up in the last day. For My flesh is meat indeed : and My blood is drink indeed. He that eateth My flesh and drinketh My blood abideth in Me, and I in Him. As the living Father hath sent Me, and I live by the Father, so he that eateth Me, the same also shall live by Me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Not as your Fathers did eat manna, and are dead. He that eateth this bread shall live forever. These things He said teaching in the synagogue in Capharnaüm. Many therefore of His disciples hearing it, said : This saying is hard, and who can hear it ? But Jesus knowing in Himself that His disciples murmured at this, said to them : Doth this scandalize you ? If then you shall see the Son of man ascend up where He was before ? It is the spirit that quickeneth ; the flesh profiteth nothing ; the words that I have spoken to you, are spirit and life. But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that did not believe, and who he was that would betray Him. And He said : Therefore did I say to you, that no man come to Me, unless it be given him by my Father. After this many of His disciples went back : and walked no more with Him. Then Jesus said to the twelve Will you also go away ? And Simon Peter answered Him : Lord, to whom shall we go ? Thou hast the words of eternal life, and we have believed and have known that Thou art the Christ, the Son of God."

The essential and most weighty words of Our Lord's promise are there : 'The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.' The question is : How are these words to be understood or interpreted ? The Church replies : in the literal sense ; they mean simply this : I will give you My real flesh to eat for your nourishment. That they must be accepted in the literal sense is self-evident to every one who reads the words of