

Holy Thursday

April 9, 2009

Scripture: Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; Psalm 116:12-13, 15-18; First Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15

Reflection: As I reflected on the readings, especially the second reading and the Gospel, three words became uppermost in my thoughts: Eucharist, Peter, Service.

We hear Jesus' words every time we participate at Mass: "Jesus took bread, and after he had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in memory of me." Taking the cup saying, "This is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, in remembrance of me." The Eucharistic liturgy is the center of Catholic life. How fortunate we are to have Eucharist every day.

Jesus must have had not only a great love for Peter, but he also had patience. Proud Peter. "No, Lord you will never wash my feet." "No, Lord I will never deny you." When Jesus told Peter he would have no inheritance with him if he did not allow him to wash his feet, Peter wanted everything washed. Peter seemed to have missed the point. Jesus was telling his disciples of the importance of service to one another.

The washing of the feet of the disciples is Jesus' way of being an example of service, an important element of true love. You and I are called to a life of service, a day-to-day giving of ourselves and not choosing one person over another; rather, to serve anyone in need.



Suggested Action: As you go through this day, think of how you can be of service to each one you meet: a co-worker, a family member, a neighbor, a friend, a stranger. Is it something you might say to that person, or something you might do for that person or maybe is it just to be present to the individual? Be gentle! Be humble!

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