

April 18, 2019

Holy Thursday – Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Exodus 12:1-14

First Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-15

Some things are no-brainers....for example, is it possible for an object to have only ONE SIDE? Fearing a linguistic trap some of you might pause to have second or third thoughts before responding... 'NO—of course not!' You would be correct...and the celebration of Holy Thursday always presents to us the TWO SIDES of TRULY being in discipleship of Jesus: love of our neighbor-as represented by the washing of feet...and being physically nourished by feeding upon the flesh and blood of Jesus by receiving the consecrated bread and wine, BOTH were given at the Last Supper...and BOTH were given the HIGHEST of elevations by Jesus. Jesus did not say choose one or the other....indeed, in the washing of his disciples' feet he said: 'unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me....I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do' ...just as importantly as when, in handing the bread and cup to his disciples Jesus said, ' This is my body that is for you...This cup is the new covenant in my blood.' Knowing what was to come in the hours following their Passover meal, Jesus is both saying goodbye and entrusting to his companions some final teachings of wisdom. Love of one another....as hard as that can frequently be... is given PRESTIGE POSITION alongside the gift of Eucharist. Indeed, these two gifts/teachings entrusted to us at the Last Supper are meant to be lived in tandem...if we are in RIGHT disposition with Jesus, the more we feed upon Eucharist...the more we want to engage others in mercy and kindness....and the more we engage one another in mercy and kindness, the more we hunger for the Eucharistic food that feeds our Jesus-directed service. This evening our Parish Staff and Pastoral Council members, Cheeyoon and myself, kneel before you to wash your feet...within a short time following, the bread and wine upon the altar will have the words of consecration spoken over them and then be distributed as FOOD to those in attendance. One celebration, two sides of the same coin. In our own lives, are SERVICE and EUCHARIST being lived equally...or has reception of Eucharist erroneously become a form of selfish personal spirituality? Has service to others become just a social issue akin to governmental outreaches, devoid of a personal encounter with the person of Jesus in those being served? **'As I have done for you, you should also do - Take and eat, take and drink'** ...final words of Jesus before giving up his life in affirmation of his teachings. Same coin, two sides. Some things are no-brainers....

Thank you for sharing this first night of Triduum with our Santa Clara community. Tomorrow, Good Friday, our Prayer Breakfast (for those who have prior reservations) begins at 7am and the evening continuation of Triduum is at 7pm with the opportunity to again hear the Passion Narrative, Reverencing the Cross and reception of Eucharist. Saturday, the Triduum comes to a close, once again at 7pm with the GREAT EASTER VIGIL, during which our candidates and catechumens are received into full communion with our Catholic community. *(There is NO 5pm Saturday Mass and NO Saturday confessions.)* A reminder that the Easter Sunday Mass schedule is the usual Sunday schedule of 8am, 10am and 12 noon. **You are welcome to come forward at the end of Mass and take portions of the BREAD that has been blessed by its proximity to the altar; please keep it until Easter Sunday and use it as part of your FAMILY GRACE before your main Easter meal/celebration (pass it around the table and have everyone tear off a piece while offering a sentence or two of Easter gratitude, then consuming the bread together.)** As our sacred rituals unfold and paschal grace surrounds you, please remember, you are loved. FKB