

A Holy Thursday Homily - April 21, 2011
Focus on 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 & John 13:1-15

We have begun the most meaningful, most important, and arguably the most beautiful celebrations of the entire Church Year.

We have gathered to give thanks for the sacrifice of love Jesus offered and continues to offer for us. We are grateful to God for His Son's life-giving resurrection and for how the meaning of all of this touches our lives so intimately whenever we gather to celebrate the Eucharist.

Jesus told us to do this in remembrance of Him. We are reminded that Jesus is more than a reality of the past. The Eucharist makes the past event a present reality and is to touch the hearts of all who follow the Lord whenever this sacred meal is celebrated.

The Gospel writer named John narrates an event associated with the Last Supper that is packed with symbolism. He tells us the story of Jesus washing the feet of His disciples. It includes the humble service of a Master reversing roles with his servants. Servants often washed the dirty, dusty, disgusting feet of their masters when they would come home and the feet of their master's visiting guests doing biblical times. It was unheard of for a Master to wash the feet of his servants. Yet, Jesus washed the feet of His disciples. In so doing, Jesus gave His followers a model for following Him.

Tonight, we prayerfully remember what Jesus did. When He washed the feet of His disciples, He gave them an example of loving service. He reminded them that they were to reach out in loving service if they were to be true to His word.

We have chosen a variety of people from our parish who will participate in the washing of feet ritual. We only do this ritual one time per year. And yet, in many, many ways, Jesus reminds us to live His example of loving service.

As we listen to the music and watch the washing of feet, let us ask the Lord to strengthen us in His service all our days.