

Homily For Holy Thursday on Love, Service and Humility

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

Holy Thursday is the most blessed day for humanity as Jesus, the Messiah, has offered himself for each of us through the Institution of the Holy Eucharist offering Himself upon the Cross. We are blessed and nourished through His body and blood to strengthen us both in the totality of humanity. Jesus asked his apostles to continue this paschal meal at every moment of their gathering, commanding them, "Do this in memory of me". To offer this sacrifice, apostles have their continuation through Pope Francis, all the bishops and priests for ministerial priesthood. Not only that as priests and followers to wash one another's feet as a mark of humility, as Jesus had done before the last supper. So today is the commemoration of the institution of the Holy Eucharist and priesthood. All of need to participate in this celebration by washing one another's feet and forgiving every trespass from others.

Why did Jesus institute the Holy Eucharist? He instituted it to be with us always and to nourish us both in spirit and body. Prophet Isaiah expresses God's love for his chosen people as they were able to keep the commandments given to them. He could destroy Egyptians as they were harming God's chosen people., "I was angry with my people; I treated them as no longer mine: put them in your power, and you showed them no mercy; even the aged you treated harshly". (Isiah 47: 6). God loves us through his imminent mercy. We need to receive the holy Eucharist with utmost humility and purity of heart so that we would be blessed and nourished.

We need to honour Jesus through our lives. Prophet Malachi says, "People from one end of the world to the other honour me. Everywhere they burn incense to me and offer acceptable sacrifices. All of them honour

me!”(Malachi 1: 11). Every honour we give to neighbour or other humans will be our offering to Jesus in the place of the old testament sacrifices.

St. John the Apostle gives the reason for each of us why Jesus needed the ministerial priesthood and instituted the ministerial priesthood through the Pascal mysteries. Father, I made you known to them, and I will continue to do so, in order that the love you have for me may be in them, and so that I also may be in them”(John 17: 26). Jesus was the embodiment of God’s love for us and he has taught us how to continue this love through our personal lives. St. Theresa of Lassie tells of this imminent love in her own words, “ Jesus wants to be in us through out our lives and reach back him in heaven”. We will all be known as his disciples by our lives. Paul tells us in the first letter to Corinthians, “The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not the sharing of the blood of Christ? The bread we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? 1Corinthians 10: 16). As we share the same bread and wine, we who are many are oe body, for we all partake of one bread” (1 Corinthians 10: 17). During this difficult time of our lives, let us wash ourselves through the lifesaving blood of Christ crucified and receive holy Communion, spiritually through the prayer of Spiritual Holy Communion. +++++ Amen. Fr. Thomas K.