

# Thursday of the Lord's Supper – Holy Thursday – April 9, 2020 – Reflection

"So when He had washed their feet and put His garments back on and reclined at table again, Jesus said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you? ... I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do."

## The Gospel of John

"Do you realize what I have done for you?" What was Jesus, the Master and Lord, talking about to His disciples on the night of His Last Supper? Was He speaking only about washing their feet as He had just done for them?

No, He was speaking about much more than the cleansing of dusty feet.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call slaves any longer, because the slave does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father."

He was speaking to the disciples that night and to us this night of what a true friend should be willing to do. "As Christ laid down His life for us, so we too ought to lay down our lives for our brethren."

What makes us brethren? What makes us sisters and brothers? Is it not the Body and Blood Jesus gave up for us as He shouldered the

cross of all our sins? Is it not the Bread we break, the Cup we drink at this table that incorporates us into the communion of the Body of Christ, that sacred Blood that courses through our veins, making us family, making us friends, making us Church?

The Book of Proverbs tells us: "If you sit down to eat at the table of a ruler, observe carefully what is set before you; then stretch out your hand, knowing that you must provide the same kind of meal yourself."

What kind of feast has the Lord Jesus invited us to? What kind of sumptuous spread has Jesus laid out for us? Is it simply that He has washed us? That, and much, much more ... "Take and eat, this is my Body ... take and drink, this is my Blood," ... observe carefully what is set before you. He has served us Himself, He has set before us Himself, He has provided us the choice meat and fine wine of Himself, and He has carried all of that and us too to the cross. He has laid down His life for us, His friends, even before we were friends.

"Do you realize what I have done for you?" It's not about washing feet.

As Christ laid down His life for us on the stone of Calvary, as Christ gives His life for us each time we dine at the table of the Lord, if I put out my hand to partake of this great banquet, I must provide the same kind of meal for the least of my sisters and brothers.

"Do you realize what I have done for you?" As Christ laid down His life for us, so we in our turn ought to lay down our lives for our sisters and brothers.

After Cain had killed his brother, he asked God, "Am I my brother's keeper?" At this table Jesus answers, "Yes, yes you are!!"