

Holy Thursday Homily 2019

Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus.

**At the last supper Jesus girded with a towel
prepared for a certain type of work,
the work of his Father
a work he sees his Father doing,
the Father who has handed over all things to him.**

**John's gospel tells us that Jesus is conscious that he has come from
the Father, and that he is returning to the Father and that he has
come to do the work of his father, so he girds himself with a towel.**

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**In the the Last Supper meal in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and
Luke, Jesus spends more time giving thanks to his Father.**

That is what "Eucharist" means, "to give thanks"!

**He gives thanks for his Father who has poured the very Spirit of God
into him. After giving thanks He shares his very self with his disciples.**

**We know that in the Eucharist we have a guaranteed encounter with
God:**

The consecrated bread and wine is a guaranteed encounter with Christ. Especially as we become one in the act of communion, He shares with us the very life of God.

In communion, Jesus is giving us the resources we need to continue his ministry.

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Jesus' action of self-giving (this is my body given for you... this is my blood poured out for you) is motivated by what God, his loving Father has done to him. The Father has given himself as servant to his son; the son has given himself as a servant to us, and invites us into this life of self-giving.

Knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was returning to God, he got up, took off his outer robe, ...

Then Jesus girded with a towel
preparing to do a certain type of work,
the work of a servant,
a work he sees his Father doing,
the Father who has handed all things over to him.

This certain type of work, in his role as a servant, was to reveal the face of God:

Although bread and wine is the medium;

Although washing the feet of his disciples was the medium,

What he was giving his disciples is his embodied life.

The face of God is a face of a servant.

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PAUSE

Story of Francis of Assisi in the Movie, Brother Son, Sister, moon by Fellini, Francis takes off his robes; takes on the role of servant.

Later in the movie the pope: Takes off his outer robes: role of servant.

(Pope Francis)

God is a humble servant.

We are called to be like God.

In today's Gospel reading, Peter has trouble with Jesus being a humble servant.

We do too!

Yet, Jesus is giving us the resources we need to continue his ministry.

My brothers and sisters, with Peter, let us keep struggling to see the face of God, to give thanks, and to become like God, and become humble servants.