

## Holy Thursday 2020

My beloved ones, in the midst of this global suffering which we are all experiencing to some degree; in the midst of the anxieties we are experiencing in the face of a natural power greater than mankind; in the midst of the suppression of the Sacraments dearest to our hearts, especially the Eucharist and Confession; what is the Lord Jesus saying to us this night, in which we remember the night of the First Eucharist. There are three unique teachings from the Lord in the Gospel that we have just heard: First, Jesus was fully aware that **everything** had been given into His hands, (everything had been put into His power); He had come forth from God and was going to God; and after the supper, rose from the supper and stripped Himself of garments (wearing only the tunic in the guise of a slave and not free man) washes the feet of His disciples, (the work of the lowest slave in the household).

The teaching of Jesus is simply this: “Let Jesus wash your feet!” We see the extreme humility of Jesus. We see the infinite humility of God, who although He has all the Divine power of God, empties Himself out in becoming a man like us in all things except sin; and then, in even greater humility, makes Himself the Bread of Life and gives Himself to us as food for Eternal Life. Jesus expresses this humility in a profound act of Love, (He still does!). He strips Himself and takes the form of a slave, and washes the feet of His Disciples. Although, at this time we cannot gather together in the Assembly of the Eucharist; nonetheless, we can collaborate with the Divine Presence and self-giving of Jesus in serving one another. Even the simplest acts of Charity, being kind to those around you while we are all sequestered in our homes, being kind at the Grocery Store, being cautious and wearing masks for the sake of others, calling our beloved ones and friends and elderly, picking up groceries for those at risk, joyfully serving our family members, being patient and self-giving to them-- all of these are ways in which we participate in the Eucharist of the Lord and continue to receive His real presence among us, until He shall come again!

However, the teaching of the Lord in His humility is not complete unless I understand, that I must open my heart in receptivity to all that Jesus wants to

give us during this time. Do not close your hearts to Divine Mercy! Allow others into your hearts! Bare one another and their gift of self-giving to you! I am so humbled by so many who, during this time, have reached out to me in the grocery store, or by phone, simply to tell me that I am loved! Allow Jesus to flood you with His infinite Divine Mercy! Stop doubting that He can be so merciful and loving to you! Remember, we give Him supreme glory when we allow Him to open the flood gates of His ocean of mercy to us. He does so, not just when we are able to go to Confession and to the Eucharist, but whenever we show Him our wounded hearts and cry out to Him! One of my favorite images of Divine Mercy is the true saying: “When the infant begins to cry, the mother’s milk begins to flow!” Receive the Divine Mercy in your hearts, do not resist like Peter, open your hearts, not to fear and distrust, but to love and mercy!

Finally, during this time, when we do not have access to the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion, ask Jesus: “please wash my feet!” Come wash me Lord in all those areas of my life that I am ashamed of, heal my fears, hurts and anxieties and sins. Redeem those parts of me that I do not want to remember and I do not want to show you, you know them already, and you beckon me to allow you to wash me. Allow me to know how infinitely you love me and want my friendship, and to know not even my sins are a barrier to your love!

Tonight, make a spiritual Communion with Jesus. Simply say to Him: Lord, come fill up my life and my heart!