

## Holy Thursday Mass

My beloved brothers and sisters, the roots of the Mass are found in Old Testament Sacred Scripture, especially in the rules for the offering of Sacrifice in the Temple to the Lord. It was a Holocaust Offering, a total and complete offering of the very best, and everything the person had, to God, to whom we owe everything, even our very existence. Before offering the Holocaust, the person would confess his sins to the priest, who represented the Presence of God, and then lay his hand on the head of the animal, which was absolutely free from any defect, and then would slaughter the animal, pouring its blood at the base of the altar then placing the offering on the altar to be totally consumed. The other form of the Offering of Sacrifice was essentially the same, except that only the interior organs and fat were consumed in the fire, and the rest of the animal was eaten by the family as a means of communion with the Presence.

Tonight, Jesus is giving us both: in the Eucharist, we give God the most perfect offering possible, His own Beloved Son as a total Holocaust, whose blood will poured out upon the earth, and we consume His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity as a communion with Him and with the Whole Body of Christ. In the same way, this Communion with the Body of Christ, brings us so completely into the mystery of Christ, that we too are offered on the altar of the Cross to the Father, as a pure and spotless lamb, even though we are still sinners. And, we enter into a complete communion with the Trinity of God, and with one another, because we truly become what we eat. This is what Jesus has done for us!

Tonight, we are asked to solemnly renew this total consecration of our lives in Love with Him. That is what is signified by the Washing of the Feet! This is the central meaning of our lives as Christians- we make visible the Communion in which we are about to participate! We allow God to love us into this total commitment to Love- The Divine Love, The Holy Trinity is the Mystery of Divine Love, is Divine Love made visible, we are Loved infinitely by God into union with Him and with one another, and we are invited By the Divine Love to become the Holocaust, the self-giving of God in Jesus! This should be the center point of our lives, like the center axle of a wheel, around which the whole of the wheel turns.

In the Eucharist, in Holy Communion, in our adoration of the One God, in Jesus, we are already in Heaven, and what we see dimly now as though in a mirror, we shall see fully face to face. Amen, Amen!