

Holy Thursday Reflection - March 29, 2018

By Sr. Diane Przyborowski

Welcome to this evening's celebration. You must have all gotten the same invitation to come this evening that I did. Did your invitation come by snail mail or email or Facebook or twitter or maybe in person? How one's invitation came does not matter; that you responded with a "yes" does matter. This celebration is special because it is a commemoration of Jesus' last meal with his closest friends. We must be special to have been invited.

This meal is the beginning of high drama for Jesus and all of us. We have an advantage in knowing how this drama unfolds. Or maybe it is a disadvantage because we can easily slip into a human state of mind. But this meal is taking place now. Let's pay attention.

In our Scripture readings we are reminded of the roots of this Last Supper....the roots go back to the first Passover of the Jews in Egypt. All those who obeyed the Lord's command to mark their door lintels with the blood of the lamb were saved from the angel of death. The Lord saved them and they were to commemorate being saved in a yearly ritual meal.

The Corinthians' reading proclaims that Jesus takes this Passover to a new and deeper place....instead of the flesh and blood of a year old lamb, we now are invited to partake of the bread and wine which has become the body and blood of Jesus. Jesus is not like A lamb of God, he IS the Lamb of God. How can this be? It is all mystery.

And according to John's gospel, some time during this sacred, last meal with his friends, Jesus does a most amazing thing. He gets up and acts like a servant. He humbles himself, kneels down and washes each one's feet. What were his guests thinking as he did this? Peter let's us know how uncomfortable he was feeling. Jesus' loving hands on their feet, Jesus' loving hands on our feet. Jesus had said they were to love one another and now he shows them how. Words turned into action. In the next days and weeks and years, Jesus' friends would know how to love each other in rippling circles of love.

This washing of feet is the Eucharist story in John's gospel. Jesus shows an aspect of Eucharist rather than speaks it. Love is shown in service. Love is shown in communion. Those first guests of Jesus did not know what to make of this meal and foot washing. It would take the rest of their lives to understand and so it is with us. We get glimmers of understanding, glimmers of gratitude, glimmers of awe.

Can you accept the invitation to let yourself be transformed into the body and blood of Christ? Can we together accept this invitation?

What better way can we be of service in this disheartened world of ours! We have become the body of Christ. We have the blood of Christ coursing through our arteries and veins. Do you believe this? We can make the difference in ordinary and extraordinary ways. We can choose to make a difference. Be a blessing in the heart of the world. (Repeat) BE ALL THE LOVE YOU CAN BE.

And as we continue our commemoration of this last supper, we will once again receive an invitation....an invitation to be humble and receptive.....an invitation to have our feet washed...it is Jesus who serves.