

Reflection

*Offered by Sr. Mary Ellen McAleese
March 24, 2016*

Exodus 12:1-8.11-14; ICor.11:23-26; John 13:1-15

A Blessed Holy Thursday!

Holy Thursday is indeed a time for REMEMBERING (not just with our heads like we remember a date) but “RE-MEMBERING” (a work of the heart and head) putting together, uniting...what perhaps has been, at least, somewhat DIS-MEMBERED.

All three of our readings suggest that we remember best when we gather as community around a table...sharing a meal...sharing ourselves in words, silence, symbols and actions.

Most of us gathered here, recognize that EUCHARIST does not begin and end here at this table (altar).LIVING EUCHARIST...unfolding more deeply the MYSTERY of EUCHARIST from the INSIDE OUT takes time, effort, intention and practice.

What does it mean that we are all ONE BODY regardless of race, creed, political stance or lifestyle.

“The Eucharist of Jesus’ passion for life has never been fully realized and will not be until all of God’s creatures are united in relationships of mutuality, respect, justice, compassion, and love.” (It is a wonderful and Dangerous Thing to Celebrate Eucharist)

We know well the words that Scripture has Jesus speak on “the night before he died” while observing the Passover.

DO THIS in memory of me!

Both of these very simple words raise some real questions.

A very close friend of mine wrote a reflection about her quandary...

At every Eucharist, I hear...
“Do this in memory of me”...

I would
I could
I want to

remember You...

BUT...what is the “this”

It would seem quite clearly
connected to what has
just happened...

But that’s the consecration
of the Bread and Wine...

“Take and eat... take and drink”

“This is my Body... this is the cup...”

And I’m told I can’t “do THIS”...
even in your memory
even if I would/could/want to...
I don’t qualify...
I’m not a male...

Why did you tell me to do something
Others say I can’t?

(Would you really tell me to do something
that I can’t?)

- over -

Others, too, have written of some personal experiences of Eucharist other than bread and wine.

“I wiped a tear from my daughter’s face as she was feeling hurt and rejected by her friends...I realized I gave her Eucharist.”

“When my father died, a friend walked over with eyes full of compassion, embraced me and without saying a word, I received Eucharist.”

As we give and receive the moments of our lives, we are Eucharist to one another.

As we come to live more deeply our contemplative/active lives we see more clearly how who we BE influences how/what we DO.

In his book, Making the Eucharist Matter, Frank Anderson says... “Eucharist isn’t abstract – it’s BODILY...” we are called by Jesus to remember...WE are to become the Bread that is BLESSED...BROKEN...SHARED.

....as I paused here a moment to check inside, my heart went somewhere I’ve never gone before...my heart said pretty loud and clear...

Maybe this Holy Thursday 2016 is calling us back a bit further than usual...back to our origins of the Passover (Exodus).

Perhaps, we are “to BE the Blood on the doorposts.”

Perhaps, we are “to BE the Lamb that is shared.”

Let’s meet at a table again next Holy Thursday to share the BREAD of our LIVES as the Body of Christ.

Amen...so be it...Amen.

Let the BODY say...Amen...so be it...Amen!