

Homily. Holy Thursday. Mass of the Lord's Supper. 1/4/2021.

You don't need me to speak to you for too long about the meaning of Jesus service to us because we've been living it out for the past year. I want you to remember this, because what we most need to hear and take to heart is that Jesus has been busy serving us just as we've been busy serving others in every sacrifice we've made to protect, keep safe and care for each other over the course of this global pandemic.

We may have taken this service, that of others to us and of us to others, for granted. That doesn't make it any less true that what we've sacrificed in order to look after the well being of the whole community means that we've acted as Jesus did. In ways both big and small we've been doing what He did, while keeping ourselves open to what He continues to do within us and through us for the benefit of many.

Jesus washed His disciples dirty feet, feet that were often misguided, fickle, fragile and unfaithful to Him. Having done so, John's gospel says that He commanded us to do the same for each other. Tonight, while remembering what Jesus did for His disciples and knowing that He keeps doing the same for us, we must also see that it is He who keeps on serving, tomorrow and everyday in so many way through each of us, his followers, His friends and His family.

What we're celebrating now isn't simply some sort of historical re-enactment. No, its Jesus life, His entire self that never dies that we're

commemorating, His life of self-giving being now lived through us in this demanding time in which we find ourselves.

This evening we thank God for the gift and example of Jesus, inspiring us, washing us clean once again and empowering us to do for others as He does for us. We give our thanksgiving to God, present and actively doing all of the work of Jesus right now through those around us, our sisters and brothers united in love, faith, prayer and communion. For we understand that God is as near to us as we are to each other and as close to us as we are to the truth of God's Spirit dwelling within us.

Now we turn our focus to the supper He left us for all time, giving our praise to God as, with gratitude, we remember the service that others have given to us in the Lord's name. At the same time, let's not forget to appreciate the loving service we've given to others in countless ways over this past 12 months, our sacrificial offering to God in every Eucharist so that God might nourish and grow the power of Christ alive in us.