

Homily. Holy Thursday. Mass of the Lord's Supper. 14/4/2022.

We're not here to re-enact what Jesus did 2000 years ago in the way that people do when they gather to re-enact an historic battle or event. What we're doing here is more like what couples do when they renew their vows of marriage, when a Priest renews the promises of his ordination or when we gather on Anzac Day to remember the sacrifices of war.

Tonight, as in every Eucharist, we aren't aiming to re-create the past, an impossibility anyway, but to remember the meaning of what was done for us, making that meaning more deeply our own once more.

I'm sure you know that the world is very good at dismembering us, very good at pulling us apart and chopping us up. Daily life, with all of its stresses and challenges, often works its way to break and sunder us. This dismembering, this cutting up and sundering force, the very last thing that we really want to happen to us or to others, is the evidence of evil at work around us and within us. It made perfect sense then, that on the night before Jesus was to be dismembered on the Cross and sundered from this life and world He brought His closest followers together around the one table of fellowship to share the one bread and cup. He did this so that they would remember, be strengthened, united and re-joined with who He was and who they really were.

When couples or Clergy renew their vows and promises they become re-connected to the heart and core of their vocation, remembering what their lives and sacrifices are all about. They overcome the dismembering powers, they triumph over the sundering and separating forces by

recalling the gift of their self-giving. Nothing could be more effective in making them whole again.

At the last supper this is what Jesus did for us, doing it for all time. He gave us Himself, Divine Love ever at our service, to be taken into and made part of us so that we will remember Him and who we are in Him; His sisters and brothers, God's own children and family. This is why tonight is a celebration for us of what is, not some sort of re-enactment of what was. It's why this and every Eucharist is a joyful remembering, a rejoining and renewal of our lives in the Lord; a feasting on who we are in Him today, not merely a wistful recalling of an event long past.

Jesus asked us to do this often in memory of Him, not because He feared being forgotten, but because He knew that we were the ones needing to remember who we are lest we lose our way or be cut off from Him, the source of our true life. He told us to wash each other's feet, an example of loving humility, sacrifice and service, so that we would stay connected to the truth of our Christian vocation and never be sundered from our God given dignity and eternal destiny in Him.

For, in this world with our ways of living that so often divide and separate us, remembering Jesus loving and sacrificial death powerfully unites us all once again in Him. It renews us in our calling, loving and looking out for each other being the one thing that lasts forever, for God is love.