

Thursday of the Lord's Supper
April 14, 2022
Gospel of John 13:1-15
Fr. Brad

We were created for love and thereby, each of us needs love to be shown us.

We can all show love in little ways everyday of our lives. The great unknown of this world is what happens in and after death.

It is through what has been revealed in Christ that we come to know the bigger picture, that life itself is infinitely deeper than that which our mortal bodies can sustain in this life.

And in the process of maturing in our faith, we gradually learn the practice of **not putting conditions on our love**. We must struggle with our pride and egos to get to that place. If we are honest with ourselves we admit our unworthiness in the presence of God. Yet we ourselves are loved by God always, even the not so flattering parts of ourselves. Can we do the same?

Are we willing to receive that love? Has this Lenten season been a time of uncovering areas in our lives where we have become stuck or are as yet unwilling to reveal in the light? Those parts that we are most ashamed of.

It is all part of the process of learning to love as he has loved.

This Mass of the Lord's Supper invites us to enter into a covenant not restricted to any one particular tribe or nation but into a relationship open to all who believe in Him.

As we reflect on the washing of the feet imagery, we might reflect on our own ability to allow Christ to wash us and cleanse us of all fear, shame, and anxiety, all pettiness and greed.

Think of exposing our feet, our dirty stinky feet, to one **we** want to bring our best selves to.

It is a way of exposing our vulnerability. Can we be vulnerable before God?

In this Eucharistic celebration we participate once again with the Lord Himself in that first sacred meal in which he gave his very self over to us to renew and strengthen us for the hardships of this life, that we may, in turn, give ourselves over to Him through our service and caring of others. We are once again invited to hold nothing back before God. We are invited to feed on Him as His disciples.

He blessed the bread, He broke the bread, and He gave the bread. 'Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies it remains just a single grain.' His body had to be broken if it was to bring life to the world.

Old Testament Scripture teaches us that God had to discipline His own people time and time again....from the Exodus from Egypt to the exile in Babylon.

To bring them to a deeper awareness of themselves and of others, He had to break them. So too with us, to make us fit instruments in His service, He must break us, thereby destroying the false self within us.

I am least myself when I try to make the world revolve around me. As His followers we are being shaped into the image of God's Son.

Each of us is chosen and blessed and broken and given to a whole little world for its life. And that includes all the little things we do for each other...including washing feet. The almighty transcendent God does not demand grandiosity. Can God simply wash feet? We no longer belong to ourselves. He washes our feet as an example of our call to humble service in a world overridden with toxic pride and He changes us into the living bread, into Christ for the life of the world. So as we commemorate the Institution of the Eucharist this evening, may we continue to remember this reality each time we celebrate this sacrament.

After Mass this evening we will expose the Blessed Sacrament for a period of adoration. It provides for those who choose, to linger a little while in the garden with Jesus. Perhaps we can use some of that time to give thanks to Him for being the Lamb of God and ask for the grace to follow faithfully and receive the gift of His Peace amidst all the challenges, suffering, and heartache that is going on all around us and within us.

As we enter this sacred Triduum together, may we grow in our recognition of the depth of our God's love for us through His Beloved Son. Amen.