

Holy Week – Lent Servant

“People of the Towel and Water – Seekers and Stewards”

St. Augustine wrote that "there is no more profitable occupation for the soul than to meditate daily on the Passion of Our Lord."

The Father willed that his blessed and glorious Son, whom he gave to us and who was born for us, should through his own blood offer himself as a sacrificial victim on the altar of the cross. This was to be done not for himself through whom all things were made, but for our sins. It was intended to leave us an example of how to follow in his footsteps. Furthermore, let us produce worthy fruits of penance. Let us also love our neighbours as ourselves. Let us have charity and humility. Let us give alms because these cleanse our souls from the stains of sin.

- St. Francis of Assisi

Leader: A reading from the Gospel of Luke [Jn 13:1-15](#)

Leader: The Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Reflection:

Jesus did not come into this world to be served, although he is God and surely deserves it. He came to serve. He came to serve YOU. And through you, he wants to serve everyone you know. He has called you to SSVP. He calls you to serve the poor. He does not say you are better, he says you are servant, like Him.

After inviting us to sit back and enjoy being served by our wonderful God, Jesus says in Luke's Gospel reading: "I have given you an example to follow -- what I have done for you, you should also do." His foot washing ceremony is a model of service. Washing the feet as servant. Remember the theme from AGA 2004. That was a theme for that year but we are called to be servant always. As Seekers and Stewards which is the theme for 2005 until June when we have a new theme. We are called to serve in both themes. They follow in the heels of one another.

“Becoming People of the Water and the Towel” (2004-2005) calls us to serve in the most humble of ways, like Jesus. He does not call us to do what He didn't. “Seekers and Stewards” (2005-2006) call us to serve, like Jesus. Only this time He says, “Seek Me” or know me, be like me and be a steward of my people.

Such a Godly model is hard to imitate, very difficult. It means loving others so much that we do good deeds for them, including the people we dislike, those whose feet are dirty and disgusting. In other words, while we're upset about the folks who have not served us the way we think they should (and probably we're right), we unite ourselves to Jesus by becoming Eucharist for them. When we look at the poor and think, “Get a job you bum.” We take that thought away and become Eucharist to them serving them and seeking Christ who is in them. We become a steward of Christ.

What does it mean to "be Eucharist"? Receiving the body and blood of Jesus unites us to him and to his whole Body, the Church. We walk to receive and we take His people, His wounded sheep with us. We take His Word with us and we come with forgiving hearts. We walk up to Christ in the communion line as individuals, responsible for our own conversions, saying, "I am not worthy to receive you...", but after we receive the Eucharist, we return to our pews

as members of the Body, "with union" (the meaning of "communion"). As part of Christ's body, we are now as much the Eucharist as that bread and wine have become. At the end of Mass, we're commissioned to go out and be Eucharist -- be the real presence of Christ -- in the world.

In our church we celebrate Holy Thursday and the washing of the feet by inviting someone to come to the altar with us and wash their feet. Most of the time, I take my husband because of the familiarity we often do not show appreciation to those closest and it seems appropriate. But one time one of our friends the poor was in Church with head hung low and I was inspired to take her and wash her feet. She tried to stop me saying she was not worthy. I said, "Oh but you are, Jesus!" We both cried and I believed we served each other that night. Servant to servant.

What did the foot-washing accomplish? It made a clear statement that my love was real and that I was willing to serve this friend if she was willing to accept it.. Jesus washed MY feet along with my heart. And I gained a much greater understanding of the love that Jesus has for me every time he washes my ugly feet (my sins). I bring others in my heart each year as I go to wash my feet and know that I am a person of the water and towel and that I am a Seeker and Steward. I am a Vincentian holding Christ's Light high.

"Oh, if you could see the mystery of the altar as it really is after the Consecration, you would see Jesus Christ on the Cross, making oblation to His Father of His Wounds, His Blood, His Death for the salvation of your soul and the whole world. " - St. Peter Julian Eymard