

Holy Thursday 2015

"It was night"--John 13:30

The Gospel of John tells us the time that the mysteries of Holy Thursday unfold. "It was night" (John 13:30). No description, no further embellishment is needed. Those three simple words set the mood. Darkness!

But in the upper room – light! Light from the cooking fire, light from small oil lamps, and the Light. The Light that has come into the world to expel the darkness. Night, a time of mystery, but in this upper room the Mystery unfolds.

The ancient ritual of Passover is celebrated commemorating the liberation from the dark night of slavery, persecution and fear. On this night, at this ritual meal, the betrayer betrays and goes out into the night, into the darkness.

Jesus knows His hour has come to return to the Father and the devastating effect it will have on his followers, whom He tenderly loves. The unconditional love of our Providential God surrounds them as they gather in the upper room. Jesus, the Light, that has come into the world to expel the darkness promises to always be with them.

On this night He gives us His Body and Blood in the Eucharist to deepen within us the power of the Spirit. In washing their feet He is telling us to care for one another, for the immigrant and refugee, the abandoned child, a lonely neighbor, anyone in need, and to let our love be His. "As I have done for you, you should also do".

His message is one of love, hope and promise. "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." "Whoever eats this bread will have eternal life."

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Women of Providence
in Collaboration*