

No. 1

This evening Mass of the Lord's Supper carries us into actually three very important parts of our remembering and living out the various moments of today's liturgy and the continuation of living these moments in our daily lives.

The first reading from Exodus reminds us of the difficult task that Moses and Aaron had to convince the Israelites to make the journey out of Egypt. Each family had to prepare the food for the evening. On that same night they shall eat the lamb and eat unleavened bread and bitter herbs. They were to eat this ready to take flight from Egypt. This day will be a memorial feast for you.

At this time, we know that story of the Israelites going out of Egypt. What does that mean for us today, at this time of our lives? Are we ready to go out of our comfort zone to be ready to help someone or taking time to share someone's pain or cross?

We are the new Israelites. We are the new members of Christ. We are the new church of God. We are the One Church. We are one body in Christ. This makes us one with one-another. How do we live this in our everyday lives? We call this gift Eucharist.. Eucharist means thanksgiving. Lets make every Eucharist one of gratitude.

No 3

Today's Gospel has a very important experience for the disciples. It was the experiencing of the washing of the feet.

How clear was Jesus in what He was about to do. Jesus realized that His time is now very limited. He knew that his apostles were waiting to celebrate the great feast of the Passover. How little did they realize what was awaiting them. Jesus was clear about the washing of their feet because, He said, if I do not wash your feet you will have no part of me.

Perhaps we also are not quite sure of what is happening in this great feast that we celebrate today. We are participating in the last moments of Jesus time with His apostles. We are remembering all these events of this moment in Jesus' life so that we can remember and relive these events in our lives today.

Jesus wants us to, not only remember, but to continue to do what He asked the apostles to do. Jesus prepared Himself to wash the apostles' feet. I imagine that all of them were dumfounded but only Peter had the courage to contest this idea.

And how are we asked to do the same as Jesus did? Jesus asked the apostles and each one of us to wash feet. Even though Jesus did exactly that at the last supper, Jesus is telling us that there is a lot of ways to wash feet – visit someone, help someone with their chores, being kind to someone, and many other ways to help someone. And notice, that Jesus let the apostles know that even the Master and teacher, – Jesus – washed feet and expects us to do the same.

#3

But most of all, in this blessed day of Passover, Jesus gave us Himself as food – food for the journey, food for our sustenance, food for living our lives as Jesus wants us to do.

It was St. Paul's Letter to the Corinthians that tells us that what He Paul received from the Lord – what he also handed on to us.

Jesus thus turns this religious meal into an unbloody sacrifice that points toward the blood sacrifice he will soon make on Calvary.

It was while they were eating that Jesus took some bread, and blessing it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples. "Take and eat, he said, this is my body. Do this in remembrance of Me." Then after the supper, Jesus says, "this is the new covenant in my blood." Each time you do this, do it in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until He comes.

My brothers and sisters, now for each of us, we continue to have the opportunity to receive this unleavened bread and this wine in every mass that we attend.

Pope John Paul II has called the Mass "Heaven on earth", explaining that "the liturgy we celebrate on earth is a mysterious participation in the heavenly liturgy."

Can you imagine that we are in heaven during each liturgy? Can we realize this great gift of Jesus present in the Eucharist at every mass? How do we receive the Eucharist? How attentive are we when receiving it and what does it do for each of us? Do we feel like we are in heaven at this time/ If not, why not?

We have the opportunity to be with Jesus giving us a personal part of His body and blood. We believe this! We say this! We continue to know His love for us and His invitation to love in return. What a gift! What a time to remember all that Jesus gives us, especially at this Holy Thursday liturgy and any time we participate in the Eucharist, the Mass.

We need to be attentive and be grateful as the word Eucharist means.