

“Now He Showed How Perfect His Love Was.”
(Missal Introduction to John 13:1-15)



Holy Thursday Reflection 2019
Schoenstatt Women's Professional League

Twelve men with Christ in an Upper Room. One would betray Him, one would openly deny Him three times after assuring Christ of his love only hours beforehand. The rest of the men, in his greatest hours of need, cannot be found. Only one Apostle, John, remains through Christ's entire suffering and death.

And yet in the Upper Room on Holy Thursday, we find only an outpouring of love from Jesus. He knows that His own suffering and death will be more than any mere man can bear, and that those who have followed him for years and surrounding Him now will abandon Him. And yet Christ does not hide from them, He does not banish them from His presence, nor does He chastise them. Instead he washes their feet as a servant would, on His hands and knees, washing away all the grime, dust and dirt of the day.

Christ's actions have deep meaning for the Church and for the Apostles who will guide her in the early days of the Catholic family. The washing of the Apostles' feet signifies the mercy of God in caring for the human soul. If in His human state Christ is willing to wash off the unhygienic soils of ancient roads and towns from the feet of His Apostles, taking on Himself the role of the lowest of servants to prepare the Apostles for their evening meal, what more will He do for us as Son of God? Our humanity is fickle: one moment we might strive to love and serve others even as Christ did the Apostles, and another we find ourselves inadvertently turning away from His Love, choosing instead our own desires or the easier path. But just as Jesus washed the feet of the man who would hand him over to torture and death, so too He will always immerse our souls into loving mercy of His Grace. This reminder of Christ's gentleness, love, and mercy should always stand before us as our greatest Hope in our own spiritual struggles, even as the Apostles who left Christ in His hour of need had this example to look back on, pushing them to become the greatest servants and leaders of the early Church.

For Reflection:

- **In my daily life – at home, at school, or at work – do I ever find myself unwilling to help others, to forgive others, or to humble my will to the demands of the day? How can Christ's washing of the feet of the Apostles help me overcome these struggles?**
- **Everyday Sanctity often demands of us that we serve others in love, in order to bring them closer to the Love of God. At the Last Supper, Christ was not *asked* to wash the feet of His Apostles, but rather knew**

that they needed to be washed, and *voluntarily*, lovingly, took the task upon Himself. How can I identify opportunities to serve and love others throughout the day, especially when the opportunities do not arise from a disruption to my own schedule? In other words, how can I practically learn to identify the working of Divine Providence in bringing about occasions where I can help others?

- If Christ as the Son of God can say to His Apostles that as their Master He can and should serve them, how should I view the role of a leader, either at work or in my community?
- Christ told Peter ‘At the moment you do not know what I am doing, but later you will understand.’ And to the Apostles generally: ‘I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you.’ How can I view my professional life as an opportunity for selfless service while yet maintaining my professionalism and responsibilities?