

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church Newsletter
April 10, 2022

My Dear Parishioners,

I would like to begin by thanking everyone for your continued support and generosity to our pantry. We regularly help many families, and our Easter Food Drive allows over 30 families to have an Easter meal. I would also like to thank Deacon Gary and his team for all they do in coordinating the pantry. Our pantry truly is charity in action and a beautiful response to Our Blessed Savior's command to love our neighbors as ourselves.

I would also like to thank everyone for your continued generosity to the poor box. The poor box money is kept separate and is used for caring for those with various needs. Just recently we have helped some families who had fallen behind with bills because of various circumstances. While they remain anonymous, they have asked me to express their thankfulness to you, and I also thank you for your generosity and ask you to "keep up the good work" that allows us to quietly help those who are going through various struggles.

We remember this week the greatest act of Love in the History of the World, for we remember our Blessed Savior's Passion, Death, and Resurrection. We remember that Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ came into this world and mounted the wood of the Cross so that we might have life, and have life to the fullest.

We also remember that, in His Love for us, He left us a way to Sacramentally participate in His perfect Sacrifice from that very first Good Friday. So, this week, we remember, in a special way, that He left us the Holy Eucharist as the way in which we may Sacramentally participate in that perfect Sacrifice of the Cross.

On that very first Holy Thursday, the Institution of the Holy Eucharist took place in the context of a Seder Meal. A Seder Meal is a highly ritualized recounting of the Passover, by which Israel was set free from slavery in Egypt by the blood of a lamb. We also notice in the Gospels that the Blessed Apostles did not record everything about that meal that evening, but they only recorded what was *different* about that meal. What was *different* was this: *Then they went off and found everything exactly as he had told them, and there they prepared the Passover. When the hour came, he took his place at table with the apostles. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for, I tell you, I shall not eat it [again] until there is fulfillment in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup,* gave thanks, and said, "Take this and share it among yourselves; for I tell you [that] from this time on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you. Luke 22: 13-20.*

That night that very first Holy Thursday, He gave us a Sacramental way to participate in His Perfect Sacrifice and the beautiful promise that came with it: *I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us [his] flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats* my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. John 6: 51-54.*

In His Love for us and in His Infinite Wisdom, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ also instituted the Ministerial Priesthood that evening so that we would and still have a real and concrete way of fulfilling His command to "do this in remembrance of me."

In this newsletter I have included an instruction on the Sacred Priesthood by Servant of God, Fr John Hardon, S.J. I have also included an instruction on the history and fuller meaning of the Washing of Feet that is traditionally done of Holy Thursday.

My prayer for us all is that our observance of Holy Week will bring about an ever greater love for the Holy Eucharist, for the Ministerial Priesthood, and for each other, and most especially for Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the True Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Praised be Jesus Christ, now and forever!!!!!!

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, pray for us!

Fr. Michael J. Pawelko, Pastor

What is a Catholic Priest?

*Servant of God,
Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.*

What is a Catholic priest? He is a man ordained by Christ to continue the Savior's work of Redemption until the end of time. He is therefore a person specially chosen to proclaim the Gospel of salvation and lead the faithful to their final destiny. But he is mainly a person who receives unique powers at ordination to consecrate and sacrifice, and to reconcile a sinful people with their God.

As one who proclaims the Good News, a priest is given the grace not only to teach the truths of revelation but inspire his hearers to follow what he teaches. As a leader of believers, he is to be the primary former and sustainer of a Christian community.

What makes a Catholic priest most distinctive, however, and by divine will sets him apart from other men is the power that Christ gives him over the Holy Eucharist and over the sins of mankind.

No one but a priest can change bread and wine into the living Christ. At his words of consecration, what had been bread and wine cease to be bread and wine, so that only the appearances remain. What becomes present is Jesus, the Son of God who became the Son of Mary, now on earth in all the fullness of His divinity and humanity, and with all the qualities that make Jesus Christ who He is.

No one but a priest can offer the Sacrifice of the Mass, in which the same Jesus who surrendered Himself on Calvary now offers Himself in the Mass, through the hands of His priest.

No one but a priest can absolve sinners and restore them to friendship with the Creator whom they have offended.

No wonder the Church is so concerned that priests remain faithful to their high calling. In God's ordinary Providence, their perseverance is a condition for the perseverance of the faithful. "Like priest like people" is not a clever phrase, but the verdict of almost 2000 years of the Church's history.

But perseverance in the priesthood is impossible without the grace of God, made available through prayer. Only priests who pray can persevere. The people must also pray, in our day as never before, for the priests of the world. On their fidelity to Christ depends the salvation of more souls than we shall ever know, until eternity.

Pastoral Guidance for the Readjusted Rubric in the Roman Missal for the Washing of Feet

Archdiocese of Philadelphia: Office of Divine Worship
January 26, 2016

Background

The washing of feet, in imitation of the Lord on the night before he died, has a very long and remarkable history. Through the centuries, this practice did not take place in the context of the Sacred Liturgy. Rather, in the tradition, it often occurred in monasteries of monks and nuns as a devotional practice. There is also evidence that the Elect had their feet washed in anticipation of their Easter Vigil Baptism. Popes and Bishops during different periods, on occasion, carried out the washing of feet in a non-liturgical setting. The Roman Missal (1570) that followed the Council of Trent called for the washing of feet when convenient. The liturgical reform of Holy

Week in 1955 (*Maxima Redemptionis nostrae mysteria*, November 30, 1955) called for the washing of feet of twelve men during the Mass of the Lord's Supper, after the reading of the Gospel of John, if opportune, to show the humility and charity of Christ to his chosen Twelve. The editions of the Roman Missal that have followed the Second Vatican Council, including the most recent 2000/2008 third edition, continued with the 1955 provision for selected men (*viri selecti*) to have their feet washed during the Mass of the Lord's Supper, but without specifying a number.

In the United States, even with the introduction of the Roman Missals following the Second Vatican Council, and the rubric that only selected men have their feet washed, the practice in many places for many years has been to have both men and women participate in this rite. In fact, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, in 1987, in light of the developing practice of both men and women having their feet washed, acknowledged the legitimacy of an inclusive interpretation of "selected men" so that the more eminent sign of Christian charity among all disciples might be more fully expressed on Holy Thursday.

Readjusted Rubric to the Roman Missal

On January 6, 2016, Cardinal Robert Sarah, the Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, issued a decree in response to a request of Pope Francis to vary the existing rubric found in the current Roman Missal. This rubric for the washing of feet, “The men who have been chosen are led by the ministers...,” is now changed to read, “Those who are chosen from amongst the people of God are led by the ministers...” According to the above mentioned decree, “pastors may select a small group of the faithful to represent the variety and unity of each part of the people of God. Such small groups can be made up of men and women, and it is appropriate that they consist of people young and old, healthy and sick, clerics, consecrated men and women and laity.” Those chosen should offer themselves freely. Sound instruction on the meaning of the washing of feet should be provided for the full participation of all.

Fuller Meaning

The washing of feet on Holy Thursday, especially following the reading of John’s Gospel with its vivid description of this scene, is a many-layered sacramental gesture. One of the meanings of the sign is the example that Jesus gives to his own disciples, the Twelve, to offer themselves in sacrificing service, an offering expected of them especially as sharers in his unique Priesthood. Another meaning, and one emphasized by the adjusted rubric, is the example of Jesus himself in offering his life in “limitless charity” for the salvation of all. No one is excluded from the saving love of Christ which becomes the new Commandment of the Teacher for all of us. Following the example of the One who has loved us, all followers are bound to love one another without distinction or exception.

Pastoral Practice

The washing of feet may be included wherever the Mass of the Lord’s Supper is celebrated. However, it is not obligatory. If pastoral considerations suggest it, then it should be carefully carried out to reflect the example and commandment of Christ and not be seen as the central action of the Mass. The washing of feet cannot be substituted with the washing of hands or any other gesture.

The rite is to be carried out by bishops and priests only, in the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy, who are in imitation of Christ the Priest. Deacons and others may assist with what is needed for the washing of the feet but do not wash feet.

The proposed chants in the Roman Missal for the washing of feet should be considered seriously for use. If they are not used, then their texts ought to inspire the choice for appropriate alternatives. The provided chants in the Roman Missal, though, speak explicitly to the example of the Lord and his new commandment, the Mandatum, to love one another as he has loved us.



Respect Life Baby Drive

appreciated. All of the donations will be donated to the new expecting Mothers at Crossroads Pregnancy Center in Quakertown.

Following Donations Needed:

- Pacifiers (0-6 months)
- All Size Diapers
- 4T-5T Pull Ups
- Aveeno Baby Lotion
- Baby Bottles
- Puffs Snacks
- Walmart Gift Cards
- Pacifiers (6+ months)
- 2T-3T Pull Ups
- Baby Wipes
- Fresh Food Feeder
- Sippy Cups
- Amazon Gift Cards
- Enfamil Baby Formula (Neuropro Gentle Ease or Sensitive)
- Pacifiers (16+ months)
- 3T-4T Pull Ups
- Johnson's Head to Toe Wash
- Baby Forks & Spoons
- Toddler Plates
- Target Gift Cards

Monetary donations for the purchase of gift cards can be made via the Parish Scrip Program - 1) Lorri Resuta at (215) 534-3092 or Email olshscrip@gmail.com or 2) SCRIP Table in the Church Narthex.

The Drive will be running from
April 23, 2022 ~ May 1, 2022

Bins for donations will be in the Church Narthex.

Any Questions
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