

Holy Thursday Homily

By: Fr. Paul Magyar

In the book of Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14 God instructs Moses and he the people of Israel who are slaves in Egypt how to prepare, eat the first ever passover meal and how to protect their household from the plague. The blood of the lamb before it is cooked is to be smeared on the two door posts and the lintel of the doorway. This creates the Hebrew letter "Het" which means "life", therefore death passes over where it says "Life."

By Jesu's time, 1200 years later, the passover meal celebrates the creation of the world, the sacrifice of Isaac, the Exodus from Egypt, coming of the messiah and the foundation of the clergy and Holy Eucharist through Jesus' Last Supper.

The washing of the feet is only mentioned in the gospel of John 13:1-15. It is Jesus' example to his disciples who will become apostles about the importance of service for all. When Jesus looks up He usually looks up toward God, however here Jesus looks up at his disciples. In the Talmud it says that the only time you can look down at a person is when you are about to lift them up.

During Lent we realize that we have fallen and failed many times to keep up our lenten promise. However we have learned how to get back up. Now we are encouraged by Christ to assist others who have fallen to get back up because we too have been there before as they are now.

Jesus uses bread for his body. The bread of life saved human life when it was invented in 17,000 BC in Sumeria and increased our life span from 28 to 45. Jesus born in Bethlehem "the house of bread" is now the bread of eternal life through the Eucharist. Wine always was understood as the drink of the gods and the drink in Heaven. Purgatory is the hill of the vineyard of the Lord. Both bread and wine are made by human hands from the fruit of the earth. It is humanity participating in the saving work of divinity who is Christ.

The cup that Jesus would have used is a stone cup because stone cannot be ritually defiled. The custom is that the most honoured guest dips first with the main celebrant. Judas dips first with Jesus. The youngest guest is to ask the first question. John asks the first question. When Judas leaves the table to betray Jesus he receives 30 silver pieces from the Sanhedrin which is the amount for the price for a stoning of an ox. The ox was the most expensive sacrificial animal that one can buy. Jesus is the greatest possible sacrifice. Praying for all of you, Fr. Paul Magyar