

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Gospel According to Luke (*Luke 22:14-20*)

When the hour came, Jesus and His apostles reclined at the table. And He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfilment in the kingdom of God." After taking the cup, He gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My Body given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way, after the supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My Blood, which is poured out for you." The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection ~ Meditation on the Eucharist

The love of Jesus will not allow Him to leave us. *I will not leave you as orphans (John 14:18). I am with you always until the end of this world (Matthew 28:20).* Because Jesus loves us with an all-consuming love He does not want to leave us, and so He instituted the Holy Eucharist wherein He is truly present, hidden beneath the consecrated bread. St. Bernard said to Jesus, "But, O Lord, this does not demonstrate Your majesty." Jesus simply said, "It is enough that it demonstrates My love."

Jesus remains on the altar so that all may find Him. *"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28).* It is extremely difficult to secure an appointment with a person in high authority to present a petition to him. Mostly it has to be done with difficulty through endless red tape and third parties. However, Jesus, the King of kings and the Lord of lords is always available at any time to give a willing ear and His attention to the lowliest of His followers. In order not to overwhelm us with His glory, the Lord hides His majesty and splendour under the humble appearance of a piece of bread.

The love of Jesus eagerly desires union with those He loves. *I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. (Luke 22:15).* Driven by His all-consuming divine love for us, Jesus so desires us to be united to Him that He allows Himself to be eaten by us. Jesus says, "Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood remains in Me and I in him." (cf. John 6:56). Do I also long eagerly to be united with Jesus?

Jesus provides Himself as spiritual food for our souls. Happy are those who are called to His Supper! We transform what we eat because the organic matter of the food is broken down and assimilated into the tissues of our physical bodies. To provide spiritual nourishment and strength, Jesus gives us His Precious Body and Blood for our souls. However, in this case Jesus is not assimilated into us but we become more and more Christ-like. Jesus is not transformed into us but we are slowly but surely being transformed into Jesus. Thus, I can say, *"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."* (*Philippians 4:13*).

The Eucharistic Celebration effects the perpetuation of the Calvary Sacrifice. Jesus knows that sins will be committed till the end of time. Jesus also knows that the hearts of His faithful that are born after His time on earth would love to participate in His supreme Sacrifice on Calvary. Those who love Jesus would dearly wish to be able to stand under the Cross to keep Jesus company as He laid hanging on the Cross in agony. And so, the institution of the Eucharistic Celebration (Mass) effects the perpetuation of the Calvary Sacrifice for atoning the continuing sins and embraces the participation of all those who attend the Eucharistic Celebration. Lest we forget, the Mass serves as a memorial of what He has done out of His great love for us. No one has ever done this before. No one has loved like this before.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, Your inestimable gift of Yourself in the Holy Eucharist was so little understood by me and my fellow worshippers. You allowed Yourself to be confined to this prison of love to be available to us always but so many forget You and never visited You. I am truly sorry that I am one of these in the past. In union with Mary and Joseph, I embrace Your Sacred Heart in the Eucharist with the love of all creation. Give us all the grace of a great love for Eucharist that we may always find it a delight and honour to visit You and spend time with You in the Eucharist. Mother Mary, our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament inculcate in our hearts a lively devotion to our Eucharistic Lord. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus.

*There is nothing so great, my children, as the Eucharist.
If you were to put all the good actions in the world against a Communion well made,
it would be like a grain of dust against a mountain. -- St. John Vianney*