



Maundy Thursday Reflections 2008

Mar 20th, 2008

Jesus knew that the Hour had come for Him to pass from this world to the Father.

He who loved those who were His own in the world, love them to the very end.

He loved them to the extent of giving His life for them.

While they were at supper, Jesus got up, poured water into a basin and began to wash the feet of His disciples.

He, the Master, lowered himself.. to the extent of doing the very task reserved for the pagan-slave (the one who washes the feet of his master and the guests).

Why such an example?

This washing of the feet is the sign of the purification necessary to have everything in common with Christ and receive eternal life. This purification is nothing else but the humble act of love, leading to the gift of one's life.

Jesus is the servant whom Isaiah spoke of in Chapter 52. The servant, bearing our faults and loaded with our sins; whose blood purifies us, whose life is offered in atonement.

Now, this is to come true - Jesus Christ's word to his disciples (Mk 10: 42):

You know that among the pagans, their so-called rulers Lord it over them, and their great men make their authority felt. This is not to happen among you. No, anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.

Does Christ's example not tell us today that there cannot be true purification of ourselves without humility and service? That there cannot be total purification without the spirit of service leading us to the total gift of ourselves?

Are we or are we not prepared to follow the way of humility and love, at the example of Christ?