

Holy Thursday Homily Rerun: April 13, 2017 - Fr. Seno



My dear brothers and sisters, this evening am deeply moved in my emotions, moved in my heart, and in my spirit, we celebrate the Lord's Supper; that most solemn evening the world has ever known. This evening, dearly beloved, we all have gathered like many of our other brothers and sisters world-wide, to commemorate what for us Christians is the most significant supper of all times. Today, we are talking of a supper with a difference. It is different because it is at this supper the Lord gave the world the three most wonderful gifts: 1. The Eucharist, 2. The Catholic Priesthood and 3. The Supreme commandment of brotherly and sisterly love and service.

These three institutions do in fact address the three primary concerns of Jesus as he was about to leave this world to his eternal home. In fact, as Jesus sat down to eat His Last Supper, three problems steered at him. By problem here I mean three facts of concerns. Yes three problems that Our Lord Jesus Christ at the Last Supper confronted these problems adequately, addressed them squarely and provided lasting solutions to them.

The first problem was this: Jesus had to go just as he needed to stay. He had to leave us: it was his Father's will. "The Son of Man goes as it has been determined" (Lk. 22:22). "But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go. For if I do not go the Advocate will not come to you. But if I go I will send Him to you" (Jn. 16:7). So Christ will go, and he will stay: he will leave us, and he will remain with us. That sensible charm of presence will no longer be with us till the end of time but he will leave with us the truth of that his presence.

Our Lord Jesus "While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it and giving it to his disciple said, Take and eat; this is my body, then he took a cup, gave thanks and gave it to them, saying, Drink from it, all of you for this is my blood of the covenant which will be shed on my behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins". (Mt. 26:26-28). It looks like bread, it feels like bread, it taste like bread; but it is not bread; It looks like wine, it taste like wine, but it is not wine, it is the Lord; it is His body and blood. Christ did not go and he did not stay. He took from us the God-man as Palestinians saw him with the eyes of his body; he left with us the same God-man, whom you and I see with eyes of our faith.

The solution is simply the Real Presence: The Eucharist. He is present in this Blessed Sacrament, and his presence is real. Whenever the words of consecration are completed, or when we consume the Eucharist, or have the Eucharist preserved in tabernacle, worldwide, we have Christ really and truly present; He is indeed and in fact "My Lord and My God." The Eucharist is the solution to the first problem. Let's with firm faith accept it and receive it for what it is.

The second problem; God wanting to accomplish His works among humanity and yet encouraging humanity to appreciate the uniqueness of humanity in divine matters. Christ instituted the wonderful mystery of priesthood of Christ in the Catholic Church. Christ wanted visible human beings (ordinary men, not angels) men taken from among men and women, to accomplish through them the marvels of His grace in the sacraments. The priest is one who is chosen, and consecrated to mediate between man and God; when the priest goes from humanity to God, that is, prayers, intercessions, supplications, thanksgiving, and petitions to God; and when he goes from God to humanity, the priest soothes and heals. Yes that is the man of God, a man of the Church; the servant of the Church. Be careful how you treat a priest. You fight him you fight God and the Church. Pray for your Priests and Happy Priestly Anniversary to Fathers Bill, Seno and Grasso. The solution of the second problem is the institution of the Catholic Priesthood.

The third problem: Are the use of power and the need of love and service. The commonest type of use of power is authoritarianism, dictatorship, oppression and exploitation. These are common experiences even today. Jesus washed the feet of the apostles and wiped them dry and clean with a towel. This is the work of a slave. After doing this he said; "You call me Master and Lord and rightly, so I am. If I then, the Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you should wash each other's feet. I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you"; Here Jesus proposes the humble and loving service as his model for us. In washing the feet of his disciples Christ teaches us just how to live for Him. Humble and selfless service. Love one another as I have loved you. You and I ought to be perennial sacraments of love, ministers of God's love to our world. The solution to the third problem.

Dear brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ, in the mystery of the Blessed Eucharist, the Priesthood and the mystery of loving and humble service, Christ bequeathed and endowed the Church with all that she needs to accomplish her divine and salvific mission.