

## Rectoría de San Juan de Dios

Holy Thursday

Ex 12. 1-8.11-14; Ps 116; 1 Cor 11, 23-26; Jn 13. 1-15

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### Let Us Surrender in the Same Way as Jesus

Jesus, at the Last Supper, is not celebrating the Jewish Passover, but a farewell supper and His self-offering in which He instituted the new Eucharistic Passover, the priesthood, and fraternal charity. It is a supper laden with signs that are transformed into the sacrament of God's love among the disciples of Jesus.

When Jesus is aware that "*His hour*" has come, we must understand that He is not being dragged to His death as a victim of circumstances. He is giving Himself up in order to fulfill His mission, the plan of the Father. He is going to give up His life by His own will. He is aware of the total gift of Himself in which His Father God is fully present as absolute life.

In our own day, we want to understand the surrender of our own life so that our relationship with God will be full and so that the world will be influenced by our love. But how do we accomplish an authentic and coherent surrender that will not just be an escape? Each of us, through ways that only the Spirit knows, will be able to understand his own surrender. The truth is, whoever does not give himself has not understood Jesus.

Let us try these three courses of action:

## 1-Let us surrender ourselves freely.

Only a person who has experienced liberty knows that he can be a gift so that others might be saved. Someone who has experienced true liberation, as did the people of Israel in their exodus from Egypt, is not content with a simulation of liberty.

We can remember when we were set free and because of this experience, we are aware of the riches that we have so that we can bear the burdens of others and give our own life for someone else.

## 2- Let us surrender ourselves in love.

When one has loved so much, that life of love can be seen as a new Scripture. This is the new codex for judging and understanding humanity: charitable love.

We can begin, just as Jesus did, by serving others, by identifying a mature fidelity among us and an equality that brings us joy. We can break down social barriers by serving and washing the feet of others. This will cost us some effort, but it is indispensable for making a self-offering. Not even the desire to do good for someone justifies my putting myself above that person; in the words of Jesus that we heard tonight, if I set myself above a man, I set myself above God.

When I make myself a servant like Jesus, I give the status of master to whomever I serve; then I create the equality that liberates and forms a bond.

3-Let us surrender ourselves to the sacrament.

Like Jesus, we can become, at our level, a sacrament of God's love. We can reflect the nature of God to others and bring them to experience God's love through our love.

The Eucharistic, Priestly, and Charitable sacrament is born here, in the gift of ourselves. When we are united to Christ, we are capable of being a sacrament of His love. And this sacrament that we can be is carried out in the new community.