

## Talk 2. 'The 1st Mass: Small Group Reflection'

*-outline for reflection; for personal prayer, in-person meeting or via zoom—*

**[Leader] Daily offering prayer:** O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, and the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month.

**Grace:** We ask for the grace to serve others with love, as Christ served at the first mass.

**[Reader 1] Scripture:** John 13:1-5: It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end... Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

**[Reader 2] Quote:** "Jesus was having supper with them, the Last Supper, and as the Gospel says, he "knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father" (Jn 13:1). He knew he had been betrayed and that he would be handed over by Judas that very night. "Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end" (*ibid.*). This is how God loves: to the end. He gives His life up for each one of us, and he is proud of this and wants to do this because He has love"...It is not easy because we are all sinners. We all have shortcomings, defects, many things. We all know how to love but we are not like God who loves without thinking of the consequences; to the end. And he gives an example... [Jesus] washed his disciples' feet. It was a custom of that time to wash feet before lunch and supper because there was no asphalt and people walked about in the dust. Therefore, one of the gestures to receive someone at home, also for a meal, was to wash their feet. This was done by slaves, those who were enslaved. But Jesus overturns this and does this Himself. Simon did not want him to do it, but Jesus explained that it was so, that he had come into the world to serve, to serve us, to make himself a slave for us, to give his life for us, to love until the end." Pope Francis [*Homily on Holy Thursday 04.13.17*]

**[Leader] Reflection questions:** What stands out to you most about this part of the Last Supper, the 1st Mass? How does this passage make you feel? How can we better serve our neighbor this lent? [*All: take 1 min in quiet reflection; 2 min to journal; then share with group.*]