

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023

AS WE JUST HEARD... "JESUS KNEW THAT HIS HOUR HAD COME TO PASS FROM THIS WORLD TO THE FATHER"

OUR CONTEXT FOR THIS EVENING IS UNIQUE....

JESUS REALIZES THAT HE ONLY HAS A LIMITED AMOUNT OF TIME...

HAVE YOU EVER HAD A SIMILAR EXPERIENCE?

I RECALL 15 YRS AGO NOW I HAD A HEART ATTACK AND OUR MEDICAL COORDINATOR THE NIGHT BEFORE THE BYPASS SURGERY ASK ME IF I WANTED TO BE RESUSCITATED IF IT WAS NEEDED.... Or DNR

THAT GETS YOUR ATTENTION!

I BEGAN TO REALIZE THAT PERHAPS MY HOUR HAD COME TO PASS FROM THIS WORLD...I MAY ONLY HAVE 24 HRS

IT'S SCARY CERTAINLY, BUT IT ALSO FOCUSES YOUR ATTENTION VERY QUICKLY AND EVERYTHING BECOMES MUCH MORE INTENSE....

MORE FOCUSED ON WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU...

MY PRAYER AT THE TIME: I'M GOING TO DO THIS IN UNION WITH THE MARIANIST FAMILY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD....FOR THEM

THAT WAS MY RESOLVE AND TRUST IN WHATEVER HAPPENS

YOU PAY ATTENTION TO THE RELATIONSHIPS RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU....

EVERYTHING IS MORE INTENSE AND MORE FOCUSED...

THAT IS ALSO TRUE TO SOME EXTENT FOR ALL OF US THIS YEAR, ISN'T IT?

HERE AT QAC

WE KNOW WE HAVE LIMITED TIME - 9 MONTHS

WE HAVE BEEN THRUST OUT OF ORDINARY TIME, IF YOU WILL

WE HAVE BEEN THROWN INTO LIMITED TIME, A TIME OF TRANSITION

**AND WE FIND OURSELVES TRYING TO MAKE THE MOST OUT OF OUR
REMAINING TIME, APPRECIATE IT MORE, SAVOR IT, IF YOU WILL
WE ALL FIND OURSELVES IN EXTRAORDINARY TIME, CHALLENGING TIME,
WHATEVER YOU WANT TO CALL IT
JUST DON'T CALL IT ORDINARY TIME - IT IS NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL
OF COURSE, WHEN WE LEAVE ORDINARY, ROUTINE TIME WE ALWAYS ENTER
UNCOMFORTABLE TIME.....**

**BESIDES BEING UNCOMFORTABLE TIME THOUGH IT IS ALSO FULL OF NEW
POTENTIAL --- THE POSSIBILITY OF SOMETHING NEW**

**e.g. THE CATERPILLAR GOING THROUGH A COCOON STAGE BEFORE EMERGING
AS A BEAUTIFUL CATERPILLAR ITS LIFE – DEATH AND RESURRECTION**

THESE LAST HOURS OF JESUS ARE A CRITICAL TIME.....

IT'S ALL HANDS ON DECK, IF YOU WILL

**OF COURSE, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS A CRISIS, VERY FEW HANDS SHOWED UP ON
DECK**

**THIS EVENING I FIND MYSELF RECALLING SOMETHING RICHARD ROHR SAYS,
“IF WE DON'T TRANSFORM OUR PAIN, WE WILL TRANSMIT OUR PAIN”**

THIS NIGHT WE SEE JESUS AS A MODEL FOR TRANSFORMING PAIN

– HIS INCREDIBLE PAIN

UTTERLY REFUSING TO TRANSMIT IT, BUT TRANSFORMING IT

TRANSFORMING HIS PAIN THROUGH THE POWER OF LOVE...

LOVE FOR HIS FATHER CERTAINLY AND LOVE FOR HIS OWN IN THE WORLD..

LOVE FOR US...

“HE LOVED HIS OWN IN THE WORLD AND HE LOVED THEM TO THE END”

HE KNEW ONLY LOVE CAN TRANSFORM PAIN ...

HE WAS OBVIOUSLY DETERMINED THAT HIS LOVE WAS GOING TO TRANSFORM HIS SUFFERING

HIS LOVE WAS BIGGER THAN HIS PAIN

HE GOES FROM BEING JESUS TO BECOMING JESUS, THE RISEN CHRIST, BECAUSE

HE GOES THROUGH HIS SUFFERING WITH OVERWHELMING LOVE, LOVE TRULY

WINS OUT OVER SUFFERING

SO, WHAT DOES HE DO AT THIS MOMENT WHEN HE REALIZES THAT HE ONLY

HAS PERHAPS 24 HRS TO LIVE AND HE CANNOT DEPEND ON THE FAITHFULNESS

OF HIS CLOSEST FRIENDS – WHO BETRAY AND REJECT HIM.... ABANDON HIM...

DESPITE THAT - HE REACHES OUT IN LOVE.....

AT PROBABLY THE LOWEST POINT IN HIS LIFE HE DECIDES TO SHARE A MEAL

WITH HIS CLOSEST FRIENDS AND NOT ONLY SHARE A MEAL....

HE DECIDES TO DO WHAT THAT WOMAN WHO DID FOR HIM ON A COUPLE

NIGHTS EARLIER WHEN SHE WASHED HIS FEET AND DRIED THEM WITH HER

HAIR

HE TAKES OFF HIS OUTER GARMENT, GET DOWNS ON HIS KNEES AND BENDS

LOW TO WASH THEIR FEET IN A TOUCHING AND INTIMATE MANNER, CARING

GESTURE

HE KNOWS THE POWER OF HIS LOVE CAN TRANSFORM HIS PAIN....

THE PAIN, THE DARKNESS OF THE MOMENT

I REMEMBER WAY BACK IN THE NOVITIATE – MORE THAN 60 YRS AGO...

I WAS HAVING A ROUGH TIME – FEELING DISCOURAGED – THINKING MAYBE

THIS IS NOT THE LIFE FOR ME - GO TO SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR – THERE WAS NO

CONVERSATION ABOUT VOCATION DISCERNMENT –

HE ONLY SAID TO ME, DO A GOOD DEED FOR ANOTHER PERSON....

I DID AND SOMEHOW IT WORKED – HERE I AM TODAY

IN OTHER WORDS, LET LOVE TAKE THE LEAD IN YOUR LIFE....

**I AM ALSO THINKING OF MY MOTHER ON THE AFTERNOON BEFORE SHE
DIED. SHE CALLED EACH OF US BY NAME AND HELD EACH OF OUR HANDS,
NOTHING WAS SAID THAT I REMEMBER, BUT I KNOW SHE CARESSED MY HAND
AND I CARESSED HER HAND AND I**

WE JUST HELD FHANDS FOR A FEW MOMENTS....

**AND NOW I CAN GO BACK TO THAT MEMORY WHENEVER I WANT AND I DO
AND IT IS COMFORTING STILL TODAY**

**SHE WAS TRANSFORMING HER PAIN AND OUR PAIN BY REACHING OUT IN
LOVE TO EACH OF HER CHILDREN --- WOW! WHAT A GIFT!**

WHAT A MOMENT TO REMEMBER AND KEEP REMEMBERING

**THIS EVENING IS IMPORTANT FOR THE EXACT SAME REASON AND IT IS ALSO
ABOUT REMEMBERING ISN'T IT, REMEMBERING HIS INCREDIBLE LOVE FOR US
AT THAT INCREDIBLY PAINFUL MOMENT IN HIS LIFE**

**BECAUSE ON THIS NIGHT HE MADE CONCRETE AND TANGIBLE “THE PATIENCE
AND STEADFAST LOVE OF OUR CREATOR GOD”, AS KATHLEEN NORRIS WRITES.**

**“BETRAYED AND WITH HIS FATE UNACKNOWLEDGED EVEN BY THOSE CLOSEST
TO HIM, HE DOES NOT RESPOND WITH ANGER OR THREATS OF RETRIBUTION.
HE OFFERS THE GIFT OF HIMSELF, HIS BODY AND BLOOD, ASKING ONLY THAT
WE REMEMBER HIM. GOD HAS PREPARED A TABLE FOR US, ONCE AND
FOREVER.**

THE EUCHARIST IS A PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE REALITY, MEANT TO

NOURISH AND SUSTAIN US.”

MUCH LIKE MY MOTHER CARESSING MY HAND - AND MUCH, MUCH MORE.

MANNA FROM HEAVEN, INDEED.

**IT ALSO REMAINS A CHALLENGE FOR US TO TRANSFORM OUR PAIN THROUGH
LOVE - LIKE HE HAS DONE FOR US .**

**IN OUR DARKER HOURS IF WE TOO CAN MUSTER THE COURAGE TO REACH OUT
TO ANOTHER IN LOVE AND SERVICE AND COMPASSION**

WASH THE FEET OF ANOTHER.

WHAT ARE WE DOING TO WASH THE FEET OF ANOTHER?

IT CAN INDEED TRANSFORM OUR PAIN...

IT IS THE ONLY THING THAT CAN TRULY TRANSFORM OUR SUFFERING

WE ALSO NEED TO BE ABLE TO RECEIVE LOVE AND CARE FROM ANOTHER...

JESUS IS ABLE TO RECEIVE LOVE AND CARE AS WELL AS EXTEND IT...

**HE ALLOWS MARY TO BATHE HIS FEET IN EXPENSIVE OIL AND DRY THEM WITH
HER HAIR...**

RECEIVE LOVE AND CARE IN A MOST INTIMATE MANNER...

**THIS IS AN OBVIOUS CONTRAST TO JUDAS WHO OBJECTS TO THIS WASTE OF
MONEY....**

**AND IS AN OBVIOUS CONTRAST ALSO TO PETER WHO HAS DIFFICULTY WITH
JESUS WASHING HIS FEET.....OBJECTS TO IT INITIALLY**

**BOTH JUDAS AND PETER THOUGHOUT THE PASSION NARRATIVE ARE CLEAR
EXAMPLES OF HOW NOT TO TRANSFORM PAIN....**

**AND IT CAN DEFINITELY BE MORE DIFFICULT TO BE WASHED THAN TO WASH
RUN AWAY FROM IT, DENY IT, ANYTHING BUT ACCEPT LOVE AND CARE FROM
ANOTHER LIKE JESUS DOES AND**

TRANSFORM OUR SUFFERING THRU THE POWER OF LOVE....

GIVING AND RECEIVING LOVE, CARE, SUPPORT....

AS WE APPROACH THE ALTAR THIS EVENING – HOLY THURSDAY –

***LET US ASK FOR THE GRACE, THE GIFT TO TRANSFORM OUR PAIN WITH THE
POWER OF LOVE, HIS LOVE.***

***LET US PRAY THAT WE WILL FOLLOW CHRIST IN HIS ABILITY TO TRANSFORM
OUR PAIN WITH THE POWER OF LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS IN THEIR PAIN AND
NEED AS OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS***

TO ALLOW OUR FEET TO BE WASHED AND TO WASH THE FEET OF ANOTHER.

***HOPEFULLY, WE ARE WASHING THE FEET OF OTHERS IN OUR OWN PARTICULAR
WAY, IN OUR OWN PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES, AND ALLOWING OTHERS TO
WASH OUR FEET....***