**“Blood of the New Covenant”**

On this day, our Lord gave His bride the Church three gifts. The Priesthood, the Eucharist, and Love that is stronger than death. Today, we enter the upper room with our Lord and His Apostles for the” Last Supper.” He their “Teacher” and “Lord,” of all, kneels humbly to wash the feet of the men He called to carry on His mission thereby, instituting the priesthood. Then, Our Lord established a New Passover by instituting the Eucharist. He established a new blood of the new covenant. Afterwards, He showed His great love for all humanity by His Passion and Death on the cross.

Jesus was acting as the High Priest at the Last Supper and He commanded His Apostles to do the same. But to be able to be a priest to offer sacrifice to the Father, His apostles had to be made priests so they could represent that sacrifice. That is why Paul in our Epistle said, he received the commission from the Lord. So, Jesus must have instituted the ministerial priesthood before He commanded His Apostles to do the same in remembrance of Him. That night, Jesus instituted the Sacrament of the Eucharist. The ritual of the institution that Jesus performed was only recorded by the Evangelist John in the account of the foot-washing.

That account could be traced back to what God, told Moses to do to anoint Aron as priest and has written down in Leviticus chapter 8:5-6. **“This is what the LORD has ordered to be done.” Bringing forward Aaron and his sons, Moses first washed them with water.”** Then God told him how to dress them in priestly garments. Then they offered the ordination sacrifice of animals. The foot-washing Jesus did before He offered Himself ahead of Calvary as the sacrificial Lamb at the Table, was similarly to what Moses did during the priestly ordination of Aron and his sons by washing them with water. That is what we imitate every Holy Thursday.

What Jesus did for us on Calvary was the greatest act of love. It was the most perfect love anyone could do for us. As Jesus said, **“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends”** (Jn. 15:13). Jesus is asking us to do the same for our neighbor and our enemies. It was an act of perfect love He wants us to have for each other. Jesus laid down His life for us while we were still cutoff from God, so we can do the same act of love for our enemies. God in His infinite wisdom, has brought greater good from His death. A death that would lead to our resurrection to life on the last day. By His precious blood, we have been rescued from sin and death.

Jesus was born to die while we are born to live. Jesus was born to die because, He could not die in His divinity so, and He came into this world in the flesh. He is immortal. To die, for us, He took on our humanity so He could redeem us. We on the other hand, are born to live. Though after the fall, we entered into death. But by His redeeming Passion and Resurrection, we can chose to live if we do what He commanded.

As we come with utmost reverence to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, let us thank Him for all He suffered for us so we could be saved.