

APRIL 13, 2017



THURSDAY OF HOLY WEEK

EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER



EXODUS 12:1-8, 11-14

PSALM 116:12-13, 15-16BC, 17-18

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26

JOHN 13:1-15

REFLECTION

On August 29, 2005, tragedy struck the city of New Orleans, Louisiana. Hurricane Katrina ravaged the city, causing tremendous damage and bringing great tragedy to those who lived there. A year later, there was much to be done to rebuild the city—my city. For my youth group's summer service project, we decided to help rebuild houses in a particularly devastated neighborhood. Words cannot describe the mess that the storm left behind. Even if a house was left on its foundation, almost nothing was salvageable. It was in one of these houses that our youth group was given a very powerful message. Mounted on the wall was the remnant of a calendar. The moldy pages were stuck together yet there was a phrase printed on the page that could still be easily read: "We are called by God to do this." We heard the message. We are called to serve our brothers and sisters in need. Always.

ACTION

Today, we begin the holiest of days in the Church: the celebration of the Sacred Paschal Triduum. In tonight's celebration, we remember the Last Supper and the washing of feet. In one of Christ's last messages to us on earth, he chose to set the example of servant leadership—to humble one's self to be at the service of others. This week, challenge yourself to be more of a servant leader. Set an example in your classes by showing respect to your teachers and offering to help, not because you want a reward, but because it is the right thing to do. At home, offer to help out around the house. Be kind to your family members. As Christ set an example for us, be a model for what you wish to see in the world.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- Who is an example of humble, servant leadership in your life? How can you begin to model your life after theirs?
- Tonight, we also celebrate the institution of the Eucharist. What does the Eucharist mean to you?
- We've all heard the saying "you are what you eat." If this is true, then we become more like Christ every time we receive the Eucharist. In what ways can you begin to honor this truth more in your everyday life?