

Holy Thursday Mass 2011

THEME: Come Let Us Join In The Lord's Supper!

Brothers and sister in the Lord; today we join our Lord Jesus Christ to celebrate the Mass of the Last Supper. This is the celebration at which our Lord Jesus gave us His body and blood to eat and to drink in remembrance of Him, for our sanctification and salvation. The apostle, Paul, reminds us of this mandate from our Lord Jesus when he said, "... that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said '*This is my Body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.*' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, '*This cup is the new covenant in my Blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.*' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." (1Cor. 11.23-26)

This is why the Holy Eucharist is very important in our lives as children of God. Anytime we participate in the Eucharistic celebration, we share in the grace and blessings that come with the mystery of the death and resurrection of Christ. As we share in the cup and eat of the Body of Christ, we come into communion with the whole church and with God through Christ. The holy Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Christ, unites us with Christ, nourishes us with the life of Christ and makes us sharers of the kingdom of God.

It is at this last supper celebration that Christ instituted the priesthood. By His mandate to the apostles to do this in remembrance of Me, Christ had made them Priests in line with His priesthood to offer His body and His blood as a sacrifice to God for the salvation of all mankind.

At the end of the Lord's Supper with His disciples, He washed their feet and commanded them to do the same to others. This is also a call to all of us as Disciples of Christ, to serve on another. It is a call to each and every one of us to be humble and realize that leadership is a call to service.