

Treasures of Our Faith

By Deacon Ryan Adams

Holy Thursday

There are so many countless examples of how Jesus shows the love that He has for all of us.

Out of all those many examples, there are three very specific events of 'Holy Thursday' that stand out to me that directly show us just how strongly Jesus expresses his love to each of us.

The first is through Christ's gift of the priesthood, Jesus knew his time was at hand and so he did not want to leave us, his Church, 'Shepard-less'. During the Last Supper, John's Gospel gives us many indications that Jesus ordained his apostles as priests, as the first Bishops. The priesthood is one of those specific signs of God's love for us.

The next example is Jesus washing the feet of His disciples.

This may be only one of countless actions performed by Jesus showing us how we should model ourselves, but to me it really stands out as such a strong example for us to imitate in our own lives, the example of how to be humbly of service to our brothers and sisters in the world. That to truly be called Christians, we must humble ourselves and be willing to be of total service to one another.

Then we have the institution of the Eucharist by Christ during the Last Supper, Jesus giving himself fully to us. Still today, during the Mass, the Liturgy of the Eucharist is a reenactment of the Last Supper. The celebrant does what Christ did: takes the bread and wine and says the same words that Jesus said, and then shares the precious body and blood of our Lord with all of us. It's through our priests, standing in for Jesus, (in persona Christi), along with Christ's authority and command, that every time we all gather to be a part of the sacrifice of the mass, each one of us, gets to take our own place at the table with Christ.

When Holy Thursday comes around, let us spend time reflecting on those examples of Jesus' love that He showed us that day...

