

## REFLECTION: THURSDAY, FOURTH WEEK OF EASTER

### SERVICE FROM A REAL PRESENCE

*Gospel: John 13:16-20*

Today's Gospel from St John is the only one in this Easter season that takes us back to the Last supper. While the other Gospels focus on the "institution" of the Blessed Sacrament during his Last Supper, in the Gospel of John, rather than dwelling on the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup, Jesus washes the feet of his disciples. What do we glimpse when Jesus washes the disciples' feet? Doesn't the word *service* describe the debt we owe one another? Yes, it surely does but even much more. Rather than *service*, let's call it *presence* – real presence. In service we want to be there for one another. In our case we want to be present to one another in these untrodden waters of lockdown.

The month of May being the month of Our Lady brings us back to that first miracle of Jesus which was a result of Mary being there for the wedding host in crisis. Mary was truly present to the threat of embarrassment the wedding hostess was about to suffer. The world has been threatened in many ways by things like drought, disease, war, and epidemics one kind or another. We have often called upon Our Lady with her innumerable titles to intercede for us. Because she was there noting the impending crisis her plea to Jesus -- "They have no wine" -- was a great service that received an overwhelming and joyous response. The shortage of wine was more than a hostess's nightmare; it was a symbol of catastrophe. Shouldn't we turn to Mary and ask her to turn to Jesus, saying, "They have no cure for a virus."

We ask Mary and all the Saints and our Saviour Jesus to save us from this pandemic. The world will never be the same; but we can render a service like Mary, to pray that it will be a better world.

#### **Personal question/action for today:**

- What will I do today to demonstrate that I am a servant of the Lord Jesus as I interact with those whom I encounter?
- How can I be more present to a particular member of my family or community (even if it is only online or by phone or text message)?
- What can I do to encourage others who are broken or disappointed with the current situation?