**You too must wash each other's feet**

**SUPPER OF THE LORD APRIL 1 (Jn 13, 1-15)**

To read what happens in the Last Supper with the eyes of the Apostle Paul gives us the certainty that we can know the full truth of what Jesus did, and according to this knowledge, we can live the commandment he left *us: "If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but (also) everyone for those of others. Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*" *(Phil 2, 1-11).* The Son of God - and it is this true annihilation and humiliation - takes the place of the servants and washes the feet of his disciples, whom he raises to lords. This is true love. Jesus annihilated himself by making himself a servant of the Father to the point of total donation of himself for the greater good of every man. In the Upper Room this annihilation does not take place alone. There is another even bigger one. The Son of God becomes the food and drink of eternal life. He lets himself be eaten by man, so that man too has the strength to let himself be eaten by his brothers, but always in obedience to the will of the Father.

*Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father*. *He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end. The devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over. So, during supper, fully aware that the Father had put everything into his power and that he had come from God and was returning to God, he rose from supper and took off his outer garments. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Master, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing, you do not understand now, but you will understand later." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well." Jesus said to him, "Whoever has bathed has no need except to have his feet washed, for he is clean all over; so you are clean, but not all." For he knew who would betray him; for this reason, he said, "Not all of you are clean." So when he had washed their feet (and) put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.*

This is the great mystery that takes place in the Upper Room. Jesus becomes Servant and becomes Food. There is no greater annihilation. Then on the cross he will fulfill his service by making himself a holocaust, consuming himself to burn the sins of humanity in his body. If the Christian wants to imitate Jesus the Lord, he too is called to become a servant of the Father, in obedience to his divine will. He too will have to let himself be eaten by his brothers, to show how a disciple of Jesus loves in the way of his Master and Lord. Today we want to serve man, but from man’s will, even without becoming the body of Christ, the body of salvation and redemption, of light and eternal life. It is a service in which one does not annihilate oneself in obedience to the divine will but following one's heart. This service does not manifest Christ the Lord and consequently does not even lead to Christ Jesus. It is a service for man's body, not for his soul and spirit. It is for time, but not for eternal life.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make us true servants of the Lord, by His will.