HOLY THURSDAY CELEBRATION APRIL 2nd, 2026.

We celebrate three anniversaries on Holy Thursday:

1) The Anniversary of the First Holy Mass,

2) The Anniversary of the institution of the Ministerial Priesthood, and

3) The Anniversary of Jesus' Command of love: "Love one another as I have loved you" (Jn 13:34).

St Paul teaches us that the celebration of the Lord's Supper has been an unbroken tradition from the very beginning of the Church. "For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." (1 Corinthians 11:23-26, NIV).

In today's gospel (John 13: 1-15), Jesus transformed the Jewish Passover into the Eucharistic celebration. After washing the feet of his apostles and commanding them to serve one another humbly, Jesus concluded the Seder meal with the roasted Paschal lamb by giving his apostles his own body and blood under the appearances of bread and wine as spiritual food and drink.

STAY AT THE TABLE

A night in the ICU: A nurse works a long night in the ICU. One patient is awake - but scared and afraid. Nothing dramatic. Nothing to fix. Just fear. The nurse sits down near the patient … takes the patient's hand… and stays. And slowly, the fear begins to fade - not because anything changed, but because someone was there. That's what love looks like. And that's what Jesus shows us tonight.

On the night before He dies, Jesus does not give a lecture. He does not fix everything.
He does not remove the coming suffering. He stays…

v He takes bread: "This is my Body."

v He takes the cup: "This is my Blood."

v He kneels and washes their feet.

v He says; "Love one another, just as I have loved you"

These are very simple acts. But everything is there; **Love, Respect, Presence, Feed, and Surrender.**

And if you look at this table, you will notice that all is not well there:

Ø Peter will deny Him.

Ø Judas will betray Him.

Ø The others will run away.

And still—Jesus feed, and loves them. **That is grace.**

Not because they are strong… but because He, Jesus Christ, is. We often think we need to have it all together before we come to God. Not really.

But Holy Thursday says:

v Come as you are. Stay anyway.

v Stay at the table when your faith feels weak.

v Stay when you don't understand.

v Stay when you know you have failed.

Because Jesus is not waiting for a better/best version of you.

Jesus is offering Himself to you right now. And then He gives us a mission: *"Do this in memory of me."* This is not just the ritual – this is the new way of life.

Ø To be people who stay.

Ø To be people who sit with the hurting.

Ø To be people who love without needing to fix everything.

Ø Because sometimes the holiest thing you can do… is simply not leave. STAY!

So tonight:

o Stay with Jesus Christ (on this Eucharistic Table, in adoration).

o Let Him serve you.

o Let Him feed you.

o Let Him love you.

o Let Him heal, comfort, and strengthen you.

Because the God of the universe is not distant.

He is right here, right now, for you, and for me.
He is at this table.
He is holding out His life for you. **And He is not going anywhere. Amen.**

Thank you.

May God bless and keep you.

Fr. Martin Ezeihuaku, MSP.