

Chapter 10:

We Are Sent Forth to Share Love



Introduction

Who is the kindest, most loving person you know? What does that person do and say? How could you be more like that person?

Jesus showed his love and kindness to all the people he met. Now that he's gone to his Father in Heaven, Jesus needs us to continue sharing his love with others. Jesus strengthens us to do this through the Eucharist and the other sacraments. How will you share Jesus' love with others through your words and actions?

Scripture Story: Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

On the night before he died, during the Last Supper, Jesus did something that surprised all his disciples. This is what he did:

Jesus knew that the Father had given him complete power; he knew that he had come

from God and was going to God. So he rose from the table, took off his outer garment, and tied a towel around his waist. Then he poured some water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist. . . .

[Jesus said to the disciples] "I, your Lord and Teacher, have just washed your feet. You, then, should wash one another's feet. I have set an example for you, so that you will do just what I have done for you." (John 13:3-5, 14-15)

During Jesus' time, people wore sandals and walked on dusty roads. Their feet became very dirty. So, when someone had visitors, a servant would wash the guests' feet. This means Jesus did a servant's work when he washed the disciples' feet.

Why would Jesus, the Son of God, do the work of a servant? Jesus wanted to show his disciples that following him meant helping other people. No job is too small or too unimportant for a disciple to do. Jesus showed us that we must help other people without even being asked. We should help other people any way that we can.

God's Treasure of the Eucharist

Receiving Jesus in the Eucharist helps us to become more like Jesus. And Jesus was always helping other people. This is how he showed his love for people, by helping them with his words and actions. Now Jesus needs us to continue sharing his love with other people through our words and actions. That is why, in the Concluding Rites of the Mass, the priest blesses us and sends us forth to be Christ for the world.

The Concluding Rites are the final part of the Mass. At the end of the Concluding Rites, the **Dismissal**, the priest says, "Go forth, the Mass is ended." We reply, "Thanks be to God" (*Roman Missal*, page 673). We leave the Church to join all our Christian brothers and sisters in sharing God's love with others. Following the example of Jesus, we make a difference in the world through our words and actions.

How will you show God's love to other people? Start with your family by helping with chores like cleaning, preparing meals, and putting things away. Tell your parents, grandparents, and brothers and sisters that you love them. Help your friends with homework. Help your teacher in the classroom. Don't say mean or bad things, only kind things. Forgive other people when they make a mistake. Pray for other people who are sick or in trouble. These are some things you can do right now. You can probably think of even more ways to show God's love. As you grow older, you will be able to do even more things to share God's love!

Things to Remember

- Jesus showed us that we should serve others by sharing God's love in our words and actions.
- We can serve others in many different ways. No service is too small or unimportant for us to help with.
- During the Concluding Rites at the end of the Mass, we are sent forth to share God's love with others.