

Bishop Jaime Soto – Homily for Holy Thursday,  
April 1, 2010  
*Mass of the Last Supper*

The evangelist of John's gospel account explains to us the motivation for the humble gesture of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. He says, "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."

The Lord Jesus knew that the Father had put everything into his power. He knew that he was sent by the Father. Looking to his pending painful death on the cross, he intended to return to the Father as an offering for our sins.

With all this in mind, the Lord Jesus had the mind to humble himself in obedience to the one who sent him. This humble obedience to the Father's desire moved him to rise from the table, take off his cloak and reveal himself as the one who serves, as the one who would love his own to the end.

The humility and obedience of Jesus, the beloved Son of the Father, revealed His great power. His humility and obedience unveiled the power of His charity. His charity was selfless and generous. His heart only willed to love his disciples with the love the Father had given him. His humility and obedience made His charity pure and powerful. With the force of this love he washed his disciples' feet so that we might share in his inheritance. That inheritance is found in the love he revealed through humble, obedient gesture of service, "As the Father has loved me so I have loved you. Live on in my love."

We live on in this love, in His love when we follow his command, "As I have done for you, you should also do." This precious inheritance is ours tonight. This is what we will experience in these holy days of the Easter Triduum. We will come to know this undying charity in the measure that we are humble and obedient to His word. Humility and obedience tempers our heart for a charity that is pure and powerful.

May the Lord Jesus removes the cloak of doubt from our hearts this night so that we might share with Him the power of this great love that comes from Father's heart and will eagerly bring us back to Him.