

April 17, 2014 – Holy Thursday – Year A
Jesus Washes the Feet of His Apostles

Is your Mom like my Mom was?

When we were little kids we liked to play in the park just a half a block from our house.

It was mostly dirt and stones, no grass.

We liked the swings, slides, merry-go-round, monkey bars and sand box most of all.

When we would swing we would drag our feet in the dirt to slow down or stop.

You guessed it: our feet sure got dirty!

Because our feet were so dirty our Mom made us wash our feet before she would let us go to bed.

So, we would sit on the side of the bathtub and wash our feet.

Why did Mom make us do that?

She did not want us to get her clean sheets all dirty!

So, is your Mom like that?

Today's Gospel story also has to do with dirty feet.

Back then everybody's feet got dirty because:

- the streets were made out of dirt
- people wore sandals and no socks so their feet got really dirty.

I guess that their Moms are like our Moms.

They did not want their houses to get all dirty so they had people wash their feet when they came into the house.

If you were a rich family you could have a servant wash the feet for the guests coming to the house.

Then why did Jesus *choose* to wash the feet of the Apostles?

Couldn't they wash their own feet?

They were old enough to know how to wash their own feet!

Jesus was making a really striking example for the Apostles.

Without using any words he was telling them:

"Even though I am God, I will be your servant.

I will get down on my hands and knees and wash your dirty feet."

OMG! What a great God - but so very humble!

Then he told the Apostles that they are to follow his example as well.

They are to serve others.

And that example was to be for all followers of Jesus ... us too!

The Church community takes Jesus example very seriously.

The leader of the Church is our pope, Pope Francis.

Do you know that one of his titles is:

"Servant of the servants of God"?

The pope has used that title for about 1400 years.

Last year on Holy Thursday, Pope Francis went to a prison for young adults and washed the feet of men and women ... criminals.

Pope Francis was truly a servant of the servants!

If Jesus told us to be servants then we should be servants.

If the pope is the "Servant of the servants of God" then we here must be servants as well.

What should we do to live as a servant of the Lord?

Help our family members?

Help our friends?

Help those we have not even met before?

Help someone hurt in an automobile accident?

Help someone attacked by a bully or a crowd?

I think our Moms would be proud of us doing humble service!

And then we might well hear the Lord say to us:

"Well done, good and faithful servant!"