



HOLY THURSDAY

*Being artisans of hope in the midst of
the Covid-19 global pandemic*

***Our broken, suffering world is bound together by fragile threads
that, together with others, we can strengthen.***

Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World, p. 7.

Holy Thursday is an invitation to acknowledge our fragility and vulnerability, and to allow Jesus to “wash” these aspects of ourselves and of our world, just as he did with the feet of the disciples. (John 13: 1-17).

In the gospels, we see how Jesus entered into his deepest vulnerability during his agony (Mark 14: 32-42; Matthew 26: 36-46; Luke 22:39-46) and we have a glimpse of his profound love through his farewell discourses (John 13: 31 until the end of chapter 17).

Moment 1: *Acknowledging our fragility and vulnerability....
Allowing our “feet” to be washed by Jesus*

Jesus knew how tired his disciples were and how much they needed care — and so he washed their feet. Feet are often “hidden” by people — we do not usually show our feet to others. And yet, our feet symbolically tell us “where we are” and “where we have been.” Jesus can only touch the hearts of those who allow themselves to be vulnerable — those who show and allow him to wash what is “hidden.”

The Covid-19 global pandemic has exposed a lot of our fragility and vulnerability. As Pope Francis said in his meditation before the Urbi et Orbi blessing: “... *we have gone ahead at breakneck speed, feeling powerful and able to do anything. Greedy for profit, we let ourselves get caught up in things, and lured away by haste. We did not stop at your reproach to us, we were not shaken awake by wars of injustice across the world, nor did we listen to the cry of the poor or of our ailing planet. We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick.*”

For reflection:

What fragility and vulnerability has the Covid-19 global pandemic revealed to me?

- in myself
- my country, or region
- my community, or family, or circles of friends
- our Church
- my ministry, or work environment
- our world

How may I/we have been contributing, knowingly or unknowingly, to this fragility? In what way may I have been complicit in “hiding” this vulnerability?

Let us bring all this to prayer. We need not be afraid to acknowledge before Jesus what is hidden and vulnerable. His love can cleanse and heal our deepest wound.

“When we share experiences of vulnerability in a generative way, we open our hearts, minds, and wills to new perspectives and we unleash creativity for new ways of being and acting.”

Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World, p. 13.

Moment 2: *Touching the agony and anguish of humanity and of our world*

In the gospel according to Mark, we see a very human Jesus in Gethsemane:

“... he said to his disciples, “Stay here while I pray. Then he took Peter and James and John with him. And he began to feel terror and anguish. And he said to them, “My soul is sorrowful to the point of death. Wait here and stay awake.” (Mark 14: 32-34)

For reflection:

Just as Jesus asked his disciples to stay with him in his agony, we are invited to stay with suffering humanity and our wounded world at this time of the Covid-19 pandemic.

- Call to mind what you may know or have read about people all over the world who are suffering due to Covid-19. Perhaps, there are even persons close to you who are directly affected by Covid-19.
- Remember Earth and her cries of anguish, and bring all these to prayer.

“The cry of our wounded earth demands urgent and deliberate response, and caring for this, our common home, is both a call and a witness to hope.”

Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World, pp. 24-25.

Moment 3: *Remaining in silence and poverty of heart before God....
Praying for mercy, healing, and hope....*

We invite you to participate in a prayer of adoration, wherever you may be in the world. [Click here](#) to register. Join the Sacred Heart Family in prayerful adoration. Together, let us be the “multitude of adorers from all the nations, to the very ends of the earth” that Saint Madeleine Sophie envisioned us to be.