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Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ June 17-18, 2017

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808-203-6767

Living Catholic in the 808: Eucharist as the Ultimate Invitation to Mature Discipleship

Excerpt By: Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI
President, Oblate School of Theology
San Antonio, Texas

One of the central meanings of Eucharist comes from what Jesus did at the first Eucharist, namely getting on his knees to wash the feet of others.

We should be on our knees washing each other's feet because that is precisely what Jesus did at the first Eucharist and he did it to teach us that the Eucharist is not a private act of devotion, meant to square our debts with God, but a call to, and a grace for, service. The Eucharist is meant to send us out into the world ready to give expression to Christ's hospitality, humility and self-effacement.

To take the Eucharist seriously is to begin to wash the feet of others, especially the feet of the poor and those with whom we struggle most relationally. The Eucharist is both an invitation that invites us and a grace that empowers us to service.

And what it invites us to do is to replace distrust with hospitality, pride with humility, and self-interest with self-effacement so as to reverse the world's order of things – wherein the rich get served by the poor and where the first priority is always to keep one's pride intact and one's self-interest protected.

Excerpt taken from Chapter 11 of Our One Great Act of Fidelity: Waiting for Christ in the Eucharist published by Doubleday in 2011.
