

Holy Thursday

John 13: 14-15. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.



Bob Colwell is a husband and father of one. Bob helps out in the kitchen at numerous fund-raising activities for the parish including spaghetti dinners, fish dinners and country breakfasts. He is a member of the Worship Commission and works behind the scenes in the creation of art and environment for the liturgical feasts and seasons. Bob is also a guitarist and shares this talent with St. John Parish at parish liturgies.

I have always liked this passage. Its theme of serving others has always hit home with me. Jesus says that he is here as teacher and master and he has washed your feet. That tells me that no one is above another person. Everyone can do something for someone else.

These ideas of service came to me when I went through RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) in 1995. Before that time, I didn't go to church a lot, but I was certainly a Christian. We attended a Presbyterian Church now and then. My grandma was a Methodist and somehow I never got baptized. When I joined RCIA I started to reflect on the Scriptures. Then I was baptized and that was a really big thing!

We talked a lot in RCIA about everyone finding a ministry that they could do, some type of service, once you join the church. It doesn't have to be something big like preaching or something everyone considers a ministry. I started thinking about my talents. I'm not a born leader, nor do I want to be in charge of everything. I am a hard worker, though and when we volunteered at the parish festival I did a number of things. The next year I was in the job bank, so I had time to help. I was driving fence posts and helping to erect the tents. I did a lot of things and it felt good. I liked being the "behind-the-scenes" guy, doing things that no one really knew I was doing, but they got done. These are jobs that need to be done, and someone has to do them. I'm that guy. My wife and I enjoy doing that kind of work at the fish fries and the country breakfasts. That's what we do.

During Memorial weekend I helped out with the sound system at the cemetery mass. I'd never done that before, but I realized how hard that must be for one person to do. I don't mind doing the basic hauling and lifting. It has to be done.

This holds true even in my professional life. If someone can design it, I can build it. If you give me an idea, I can figure out how to get it built. That skill has come

in handy for the Worship Commission and the art and environment for the parish. I help out with lighting and all kinds of other things.

I try to carry on this attitude of service at work. If something has to get done, the boss knows that I will put off lunch to meet with someone or to finish something. I'm kind of the "go-to" guy. I try to remain flexible and it has worked out well. If I'm needed to stay late to finish a project I try to do that, too. In doing that, I seem to get along much better at work.

We're all in the process of learning what it is to be a disciple. Marriage can only work if both partners are willing to do what is necessary at that time. There are a certain amount of things that have to get done in a household. One person shouldn't have to do them all. If someone is tied up and can't do what they are normally responsible for, the other person can kick in and get it done. It all has to work together.

Working at all these gatherings leaves me with a good feeling. All these people are coming together to socialize, to reconnect and to raise some funds for the church. Families have a good time together. It's exciting to see how it all comes together and know that you have been part of it.

When I started working in the kitchen I realized that my efforts helped make a nice dinner in a family atmosphere. Because I have cooked in a restaurant atmosphere every time I go out to a restaurant, with maybe the service being not so great and the food not being quite what I expected, I realize how much hard work went into that meal. Every meal after that means a bit more to you. Someone has worked hard to feed you. After that, the little things really don't matter as much.

There have been times at fish fries when we couldn't keep up with the fish. Sometimes the oil won't get hot, or a burner goes down. People are patient, though, and they appreciate all the efforts and your labor of love. It's a time to relax and enjoy each other's company.

The first time I played guitar at a mass was above and beyond anything I had expected. I was hoping that my playing would help someone pray during mass. I was hoping that people enjoyed my efforts.

We go from the table of the Eucharist on Sunday morning to the dinner table in our homes. Sometimes we share an evening meal with the parish family. Each leads back to the other. Being of service makes me feel like I'm even more a part of St. John Parish.

If you would like to lend a helping hand at any of the St. John Parish fund-raising dinners, please contact Steve Hill at shill@stjohndavison.org or phone him at 658-7114.

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic? Would you like to learn more about the Catholic faith? You can do so by getting in touch with Elaine Ouellette at euoulette@stjohndavison.org

Do you play an instrument? Our parish music ministry would be delighted to speak with you. Please e-mail Julie Richards at jrichards@stjohndavison.org or reach her by phone at 658-1135.

St. John Parish welcomes those who are interested in serving on the parish Worship Commission. To offer your time and talent please contact Julie Richards at the above e-mail address or by phone.