

HOW MUCH I LONGED TO HAVE THIS MEAL WITH YOU

True story with minor embellishments.

By P. Ribes, s.j.

Note:

- *Story preached on a Maundy Thursday.*
- *Jesus desires us to share his last supper with Him*
- *With great longing I desired to have this meal with you. Do this in my memory.*
- *Jesus at the last supper gave Himself to us. How much we prize His gift to us?*

The Story

Mrs. Garcia a well-to and very religious lady lost her husband when her five children were very small. The eldest was in his early teens. He brought them up in the love and in the fear of God. In later life, all her children were upright and very successful in their careers

Years later; she was diagnosed of a galloping blood cancer. She had only few weeks to live. Immediately, she wrote a letter to all her children now, scattered into many cities and countries around the world, inviting them for a surprise dinner and celebration. She wrote: Sorry for the short notice I give you, but I can't help it. I invite you all to come to home next Sunday for a dinner and for a big celebration. I would like to have you all and your families with me for that big occasion. Do not disappoint me

Punctually, all her children and their families on Sunday next, were in her home in the evening. She regaled them with a sumptuous dinner with music, and all sorts of entertainments. Everybody was happy and pleased, yet all were intrigued why mum had called them for that dinner with such urgency and such short notice.

After dinner, Mrs. Garcia stood up and with a face beaming with joy told her children. I am so very glad all of you have come to this dinner, even at your great inconvenience and haste. I'll disclose you now the reason why I wanted to have you all with me to night, at this supper and celebration, my beloved children and grandchildren. You know how much I loved you and still love you.

The doctors told me that I suffer of galloping blood cancer, and that my life is coming to its end. It was my great desire to have you all with me before God takes me away from you to Himself. On this occasion, I wish to thank Him for all the graces and gifts He has poured out on me and on you all these years. I thank God, specially, for each one of you. Each one of you has been a treasure to me and to the world. Use it for yourselves and for others.

This is the last supper we are going to have together before I leave you for my heavenly home. There I'll be waiting for you, my beloved children and grandchildren. Live in

such a way that we may meet again all together as we did it here today. I'll never forget you. Do not forget me either.

After these words, she gave to all an envelope with her photo, a prayer she composed herself for the family and a generous cheque with a short note. "Use this money as I would myself" Then, she kissed all present et and recited aloud the Consecration of the Family to the Sacred Heart of Jesus"